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USSR REPORT MILITARY AFFAIRS

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ARMED FORCES

PARTY LEADERSHIP OF ARMED FORCES DISCUSSED

Moscow AGITATOR ARMII I FLOTA in Russian No 14, Jul 82 (signed to press 9 Jul 82)
pp 17-21

[Article by Col Gen G. Sredin: "The Main Source of the Might of the Armed Forces"; passages rendered in all capital letters printed in boldface in source]

[Text] This article is recommended for use in preparing for political lessons on the subject: "The Leadership of the CPSU--The Chief Source of the Might of the Soviet Armed Forces."

Inspiring and organizing the peoples of our country for the implementation of the plans for communist creation, at the same time the Communist Party of the Soviet Union is devoting great attention to the leadership of military organizational development and the Soviet Armed Forces.

New evidence of the party's constant attention to questions of strengthening the Soviet Armed Forces and intensifying party influence on all aspects of their life and activity is the 6th Army-Wide Conference of Secretaries of Primary Party Organizations which took place recently.

The leadership of the Armed Forces by the Communist Party is an objective regular law of development of the new society, the basic principle of Soviet military organizational development, and the main source of the strength and invincibility of the Soviet Armed Forces. It is caused by the leading and directing role of the CPSU in the overall system of the socialist state, the general nature and historic purpose of the army of a socialist country, and its goals and missions.

PARTY LEADERSHIP OF MILITARY ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT IS BASED ON THE FIRM FOUNDATION OF MARXISM-LENINISM AND A CLASS APPROACH TO THE PHENOMENA OF SOCIAL LIFE. IT PERMEATES ALL SPHERES OF THE LIFE AND ACTIVITY OF THE ARMED FORCES AND ENCOMPASSES BASIC PROBLEMS OF MILITARY ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT SUCH AS ELABORATION OF MILITARY POLICY AND THE MILITARY DOCTRINE OF A SOCIALIST STATE, THE STRENGTHENING OF THE MATERIAL AND SPIRITUAL FOUNDATIONS OF THE COUNTRY'S DEFENSIVE CAPABILITY AND THE COMBAT POTENTIAL AND COMBAT READINESS OF THE ARMED FORCES, THE TRAINING AND ASSIGNMENT OF MILITARY CADRES, THE TRAINING AND INDOCTRINATION OF THE PERSONNEL, THE DEVELOPMENT OF SOVIET MILITARY SCIENCE AND MILITARY ART, AND THE DIRECTION OF PARTY-POLITICAL WORK. IN ESSENCE, THERE ARE NO AREAS IN THE LIFE AND ACTIVITY OF THE SOVIET ARMED FORCES WHERE THE BENEFICIAL LEADING AND DIRECTING INFLUENCE OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY WOULD NOT BE DISPLAYED.

The basic ideas on the necessity for party leadership of military organizational development were formulated by V. I. Lenin in his many works and statements. They were consolidated in the decree of the Central Committee. "On the policy of the war department," adopted 25 December 1918 on the initiative of V. I. Lenin. It says in it: "...the policy of the war department, just as of all other departments and institutions, is conducted on the precise basis of general directives issued by the party in the person of its Central Committee and under its direct control."

The party and its Central Committee constantly keep their eye on the solution of all problems connected with the defense of the Soviet state and military organizational development. During the years of the Civil War and the foreign military intervention, questions on the conduct of the war, strengthening the country's defense, and the organizational development of the Soviet Army did not leave the agenda of the leading and local party organs. V. I. Lenin devoted constant attention to them. During the years 1918-1920, 143 sessions of the Defense Council took place under his chairmanship. During 1919 alone, he participated in the sessions of 14 plenums of the Central Committee and 40 sessions of the Politburo of the Central Committee of the RKP(b) [Russian Communist Party (of Bolsheviks)] at which military problems were solved. In the report of the party Central Committee for 1919 it was noted that questions connected with defense were discussed in the first instance and the decisions which were adopted were immediately implemented.

The Lenin principles of party leadership of military organizational development were invariably implemented by the party in the period of peaceful socialist construction, too. Their decisive significance and supreme vitality were manifested especially brilliantly during the severe years of the Great Patriotic War. The Communist Party stepped forth as the genuine organizer of the socialist fatherland's defense, mobilized the material and spiritual strength of the country for the attainment of victory, armed the Soviet people ideologically and inspired them to struggle against the fascist aggressors, and headed the struggle.

The Leninist party became a truly fighting party. The best party forces were sent for military work, among them almost half the members and candidate members of the party Central Committee and many other leading workers of the party. By the end of the war more than 80 percent of all communists were concentrated in the Armed Forces and in the branches of the national economy directly servicing the needs of the front.

The communists were always in front, on the most dangerous and important sectors. By personal example and party word they lifted the men for the destruction of the enemy. "Loyal sons of the party," wrote Comrade L. I. Brezhnev in the book "Malaya Zemlya," "they called upon the fighting men for a fight to the death with its name. They called on them not to spare their lives in the name of the motherland. And in battle, they were the first to accomplish what they called on others to do, carrying the fighting men along behind them."

The CPSU's leadership of the Soviet people's struggle and its organizational and ideological work became the main source of the might of the Soviet Armed Forces in the struggle with the strong and dangerous enemy--the fascist aggressors.

The 26th CPSU Congress noted that the contemporary stage of communist construction in the USSR is characterized by a further rise in the leading and directing role of the Communist Party in all spheres of the life and activity of Soviet society. This is caused by the GROWTH IN THE SCALES AND COMPLEXITY OF THE TASKS IN THE BUILDING OF COMMUNISM, THE RISE IN THE CREATIVE ACTIVITY OF THE MASSES AND THEIR INVOLVEMENT IN CONTROLLING STATE AND ECONOMIC MATTERS, BY THE FURTHER EXPANSION OF SOCIALIST DEMOCRACY AND A RISE IN THE ROLE OF PUBLIC ORGANIZATIONS, THE GROWTH IN THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE THEORY OF SCIENTIFIC COMMUNISM AND ITS CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT AND PROPAGANDIZING, AND BY THE NECESSITY TO INTENSIFY THE COMMUNIST INDOCTRINATION OF THE WORKERS. "...IN THE PERIOD OF DEVELOPED SOCIALISM," SAID COMRADE L.I. BREZHNEV AT THE 26TH CPSU CONGRESS, "THE ROLE OF THE PARTY IN THE LIFE OF SOCIETY IS GROWING."

The role of the CPSU is also growing in the leadership of the Armed Forces, since they are part of our society and perform in it the most important function of defending the socialist state against external enemies. Along with this, THE INCREASE IN THE LEADING ROLE OF THE CPSU IS CAUSED BY THE SPECIAL FEATURES OF THE CONTEMPORARY INTERNATIONAL SITUATION in which the Soviet people must accomplish the tasks of communist construction.

It is known that the contemporary military-political situation is characterized by a sharp intensification of imperialism's aggressiveness, first of all American, which is trying to undermine detente and to push the world onto the path of confrontation and dangerous balancing on the edge of war.

Our country is opposing the aggressive course of imperialism with a policy of peace and a tireless struggle for preserving the relaxation of tension, for restraining the arms race, and against an increase in the threat of the outbreak of a new world war. The important peaceful initiatives and constructive suggestions of the Soviet government, the adoption of which would serve ensuring a firm peace in Europe and the entire world, are directed toward this. However, the peace-loving proposals of the USSR are encountering the stubborn resistance of the United States and other imperialist countries. They are conducting a course toward the expansion of military preparations and whipping up an anti-Soviet propaganda campaign. Under these conditions the correct evaluation of the development of the international situation and the timely adoption of all measures to ensure the security of the Soviet motherland acquire special importance.

In struggling for peace, the Central Committee of the CPSU is vigilantly following the intrigues of the enemies of peace and calls upon the servicemen to raise their vigilance. The party is adopting measures to maintain the defensive capability of the country and the combat might and combat readiness of the Soviet Armed Forces at the proper level. "For our constructive plans to be realized," said Comrade L. I. Brezhnev at the May (1982) plenum of the CPSU Central Committee, "we need to preserve peace. Therefore, we will maintain the country's defensive capability on the proper level, we will continue the struggle for a relaxation in international tension persistently and purposefully--both political and military detente."

The rise in the party's leading role in the area of military organizational development is also caused by the FURTHER INTENSIFICATION OF THE DEPENDENCE OF THE COMBAT POWER AND COMBAT CAPABILITY OF THE ARMED FORCES ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE COUNTRY'S ECONOMY, ON PROVIDING THE ARMED FORCES WITH CONTEMPORARY COMBAT EQUIPMENT AND ARMAMENTS, AND ON THE PERSONNEL'S STATE OF TRAINING.

The party constantly directs this process. Thanks to its concern the Soviet Armed Forces are equipped with all types of contemporary combat equipment and nuclear missile and other weapons which provide them with an impressive strike force, mobility, and tremendous firepower. The combat readiness and combat ability of the troops and naval forces--the main indicator of the Armed Forces' qualitative state--have risen to a new stage.

Of course, the arrival of contemporary combat equipment and weapons in the Armed Forces will raise their combat potential only when they are in skillful and reliable hands. Therefore, the mastery of combat equipment and weapons and the methods for their combat employment should be a subject of the daily concern of all servicemen just as the improvement of field, air, and sea training of the men and the organizational abilities of military personnel.

Being guided by the Lenin proposition that a modern army cannot be built without science, THE COMMUNIST PARTY DISPLAYS CONSTANT CONCERN FOR THE FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF SOVIET MILITARY SCIENCE, organizes the combat and political training of the personnel on a scientific basis, and solves all problems in the development of the Armed Forces. Tireless concern for the strengthening of unity of command is displayed. The party is concerned about the training of officer personnel and about molding in them such qualities as competence, a keen sense of what is new, and the ability to assume responsibility for the accomplishment of difficult missions, to note in time and support the initiative of the men, and to mobilize them for the accomplishment of the assigned missions.

Contemporary war and the nature of daily military service are imposing high demands on the moral-political and psychological tempering of the men and their spiritual readiness to accomplish their patriotic and international duty in the defense of socialism's achievements. "Under contemporary conditions," the Soviet Minister of Defense, Marshal of the Soviet Union D. F. Ustinov points out, "not only great knowledge and skill are required of the men, but also lofty spiritual qualities, firm ideological tempering, steadfastness, political consciousness, a deep understanding of their missions, and ability to withstand unprecedented moral-psychological and physical loads and to preserve the will for struggle and victory under any conditions." This raises the significance of ideological-indoctrinational work which the CPSU is organizing and conducting among the Soviet servicemen.

THE COMMUNIST PARTY IS INDOCTRINATING THE PERSONNEL OF THE ARMED FORCES IN A SPIRIT OF COMMUNIST IDEOLOGICAL CONTENT and directing the efforts of command and political personnel toward the instilling in the men of a Marxist-Leninist world outlook, ideological conviction, Soviet patriotism and socialist internationalism, the friendship of the peoples of the USSR, and unflagging devotion to the cause of October, heroic revolutionary, combat, and labor traditions, and a readiness for an exploit in the name of the motherland as well as toward the molding of lofty moral-combat and psychological qualities. In the indoctrination of the personnel, invariably fixed attention is devoted to the accomplishment of the requirements of the military oath and regulations and the solidarity of the troop collectives.

In the accomplishment of the missions facing the Soviet Armed Forces, an important role belongs to the Armed Forces party organizations and political organs--the leading organs of the CPSU in the Armed Forces.

The party organizations are the political nucleus of the troop collectives and the cementing force of the Armed Forces. Together with the Komsomols, the communists comprise 90 percent of the Armed Forces' personnel. The success in the accomplishment of the missions assigned to the Armed Forces by the party depends to a tremendous degree on the work of the party organizations, on their activity and combat vitality as well as persistence in achieving the assigned goal, and on the personal example of the communists and Komsomols in the accomplishment of their military duty.

THE PARTY DISPLAYS CONCERN FOR THE FURTHER IMPROVEMENT OF PARTY-POLITICAL WORK. In the greetings of the CPSU Central Committee to the participants in the 6th Army-Wide Conference of Secretaries of Primary Party Organizations, it says: "At the center of attention of the Armed Forces communists should be the constant improvement of party-political work, the strengthening of ties with the broad masses of servicemen, their indoctrination in a spirit of Soviet patriotism and proletarian internationalism, and boundless devotion to the Soviet motherland; a rise in the quality of the combat and political training of the men, and ensuring a high level of discipline and military order."

The influence of party organizations, stressed the Soviet Minister of Defense, Marshal of the Soviet Union D. F. Ustinov, in his report at the 6th Army-Wide Conference of Secretaries of Primary Party Organizations, should be displayed in specific results in the training and combat readiness of the Armed Forces. These results also serve as the main criterion of the quality of the work of party organizations and their contribution to the common cause of strengthening the country's defense.

The historic mission assigned to the Soviet Armed Forces is to guard reliably the peaceful, constructive labor of our people and to serve as the bulwark of peace on Earth--patriotic and at the same time international in its nature. Together with the armies of the allied countries in the Warsaw Pact, they are standing guard over the achievements of world socialism.

The combat collaboration of the Soviet Armed Forces with the allied armies, including the practical solution of a broad range of problems beginning with the coordination of plans for the development of the Armed Forces up to the conduct of joint exercises and the exchange of experience in the indoctrination and training of the personnel, IS DEVELOPING SUCCESSFULLY UNDER THE BENEFICIAL INFLUENCE OF THE COMMUNIST AND WORKERS PARTIES WHICH ARE THE LEADING AND DIRECTING FORCE IN SOCIALIST COUNTRIES.

All this, naturally, raises the role of the CPSU in the leadership of military organizational development and the Soviet Armed Forces and in ensuring the reliable defense of revolutionary achievements.

The leadership of the Armed Forces by the CPSU is and will be the very basis of Soviet military organizational development and the most important source of the might and victories of world-wide significance of the Soviet Armed Forces.

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ARMED FORCES

LECTURE ON MILITARY OATH

Moscow AGITATOR ARMII I FLOTA in Russian No 17, Sep 82 (signed to press 30 Aug 82) pp 14-17

[Article by Lt Col K. Pashikin: "For Political Study Group Students and Assistant Instructors: 'I Solemnly Swear...'"; passages rendered in all capital letters printed in boldface in source]

[Text] This day is remembered by young soldiers and sailors all their lives. They give an oath of allegiance to their people, the Motherland and the Soviet government in a ceremonial, holiday atmosphere, with weapon in hand before a formation of comrades.

The words of the military oath, simple but full of profound meaning, embody in a condensed form Lenin's behests to Soviet soldiers and the demands of the Communist Party, Soviet government and all the people on the Motherland's armed defenders. At the same time these demands also are combined organically with the soldier and sailor's own convictions and his moral obligations to defend the Soviet people's peaceful labor. They are linked inseparably with provisions of the USSR Constitution, which states that defense of the socialist homeland is the sacred duty of every USSR citizen and military service in the ranks of the Armed Forces is the honorable duty of Soviet citizens.

Just how did our military oath originate and what is the history of its appearance? The custom of swearing allegiance to the socialist Motherland arose together with the birth of the Red Army. At the initiative of the fighting men and commanders themselves, each unit created its own solemn oath. It was called different things: a solemn promise, a socialist oath, a Red oath. But in its content this oath was a class-oriented, workers' and peasants' oath. It solidified the detachments and regiments of the young Red Army, uplifted the fighting spirit of officers and men and called on them to fight selflessly for Soviet power and crush the Revolution's enemies mercilessly.

To give the military oath the significance of a state document, the All-Russian Central Executive Committee (VTsIK) approved on 22 April 1918 a uniform text of the solemn promise for the entire Army--the first Soviet military

*This article is recommended for use in preparing for political classes on the topic "The military oath is a soldier's oath of allegiance to the socialist Motherland."

oath. It was reviewed and approved by V. I. Lenin and printed in the "Red Army Man's Record of Service Book."

The date 11 May 1918 holds a special place in the history of the military oath. On that day V. I. Lenin took the solemn oath together with fighting men of the 4th Moscow and Warsaw revolutionary regiments at the Mikhel'son Plant (now the Plant imeni Vladimir Il'ich). Then he gave a speech to the fighting men and commanders. This historical fact indicates what great importance Vladimir Il'ich attached to instilling allegiance to military duty in the fighting men.

In March 1922 a VTsIK decree established a uniform day for oath-taking--1 May, as well as an identical procedure for taking it. Soldiers began to take the oath collectively, in formation, during a parade. Oath-taking in a ceremony became a remarkable military ritual.

That procedure existed until 1939, when the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium instituted a new text of the military oath in conformity with the USSR Constitution adopted in 1936. A new statute on the procedure for taking the oath also was approved simultaneously. From that time Army and Navy personnel have taken the military oath individually and secure it with their own signature.

Certain changes were made to the text of the oath in subsequent years, but its meaning remains the same. The presently existing oath was approved by Ukase of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium dated 23 August 1960. Partial changes caused by adoption of the new USSR Constitution in October 1977 were made to the text of the military oath by Ukase of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium dated 16 November 1980.

What demands does the military oath place on the Motherland's defenders? The first is TO BE HONEST. This means above all SERVING ONE'S PEOPLE AND THE SOCIALIST HOMELAND SELFLESSLY AND DEVOTEDLY AND FULFILLING ONE'S DUTIES CONSCIENTIOUSLY. A SOLDIER OR SAILOR'S HONESTY SIGNIFIES TRUTHFULNESS AND SINCERITY TOWARD COMMANDERS AND COMRADES, AN ABILITY TO EVALUATE ONE'S DEEDS SELF-CRITICALLY, AND AN ABILITY TO RECOGNIZE AND CORRECT ONE'S MISTAKES. It is not said for nothing: "Serve and don't go against your conscience."

It is not by chance that the demand to be honest is in first place in the military oath. This quality is of special significance for the soldier and sailor. Without honesty there is no discipline, which means no combat readiness. The dishonesty even of one person in a combat situation may lead to irreparable consequences.

Honesty and truthfulness unite soldiers in a single, strong combat family, reinforce troop comradeship and improve the Army and Navy's combat might. And to the contrary, lies, deceit and concealment harm the collective and destroy the collective's friendship and solidarity.

The military oath obligates every soldier TO BE BRAVE. Bravery and courage always have been our soldiers' companions in fighting for the Motherland and have helped win victories. The basis for Soviet soldiers' bravery is their PROFOUND IDEOLOGICAL CONVICTION, FERVENT PATRIOTISM AND RECOGNITION OF

PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE MOTHERLAND'S DEFENSE. It was this inspiring force that lent wings to our soldiers at moments of stern ordeals and led them to immortal exploits. "History knows many heroic exploits by individuals," writes Comrade L. I. Brezhnev in his book "Vospominaniya" [Memoirs], "but only in our great country and only led by our great party have Soviet citizens shown that they were capable of mass heroism."

Representatives of all USSR nationalities demonstrated vivid examples of courage and bravery in fighting for the Motherland. This is especially important to recognize today, when the country is preparing for a banner jubilee, the 60th anniversary of the USSR's formation. The whole world knows of the immortal exploit of Pvt Aleksandr Matrosov, who used his body to close the embrasure of an enemy pillbox and assured the combat success of comrades in arms at the cost of his life. This exploit was repeated by Ukrainian Aleksandr Shevchenko, Kazakh Sultan Baymagambetov, Belorussian Prokofiy Avramkov, Uzbek Tuychi Erdzhigitov, Azerbaijan Geray Lyatif-ogly Asadov, Kirghiz Cholponbay Tuleberdiyev, Estonian Iosif Laar, Armenian Unan Avetisyan, Tatar Gazinur Gafiyatullin, Mari Zinon Prokhorov and many other courageous sons of our multinational Motherland. "In the stern years of the Great Patriotic War," states the CPSU CC decree dedicated to the 60th anniversary of the USSR's formation, "fraternal nations stood up in defense of the Motherland shoulder to shoulder and displayed mass heroism and an unbending will to win..."

Even in peacetime Soviet soldiers often display bravery in exercises, on cruises, while performing operational readiness or guard service, or while carrying out command assignments. Such examples can be found in every unit and aboard every ship.

In taking the oath the soldier swears TO BE DISCIPLINED. Discipline is necessary everywhere--at the plant, in the establishment, in the educational institution. But the meaning of discipline is especially great in the Army. Lenin viewed it as a most important factor of troop combat readiness. "The strictest discipline is necessary in the Army," he pointed out.

This behest of Lenin's has acquired special urgency under present conditions. The complexity of the international situation and the dangerous course of imperialism's aggressive circles headed by the United States toward attaining military supremacy over the Soviet Union and other socialist countries demands supreme combat readiness for resolute actions in defense of the Motherland on the part of Soviet soldiers. The foundation, the basis of combat readiness is firm military discipline. "Without firm discipline," stated USSR Minister of Defense Mar SU D. F. Ustinov in a report at the 6th All-Army Conference of Primary Party Organization Secretaries, "there is no combat readiness. This is an axiom which has been known since the time armies appeared."

An important requirement of the military oath is TO BE VIGILANT AND TO KEEP MILITARY AND STATE SECRETS STRICTLY. Vigilance is above all political vigilance and an ability to discover and stop in time the actions of hostile elements and their ideological and armed subversion. It always must be remembered that secrets are not only kept in safes. Every soldier regardless of what duties he performs has certain information which comprises a secret. Particular vigilance is required of soldiers who perform guard duty, watch or operational readiness.

The next demand of the military oath is TO OBSERVE THE USSR CONSTITUTION AND SOVIET LAWS AND TO CARRY OUT MILITARY REGULATIONS AND THE ORDERS OF COMMANDERS AND SUPERIORS IMPLICITLY. Soviet soldiers are full-fledged USSR citizens and so the requirement of our Basic Law to observe the USSR Constitution and Soviet laws, to respect the rules of socialist society and to bear with dignity the high title of USSR citizen relates fully to them.

At the same time the daily life and work of Army and Navy personnel is strictly governed by regulations--a unique code of laws of military service. Requirements of the regulations conform fully to the USSR Constitution. They embody Leninist ideas on defense of the socialist homeland and demands of the Communist Party and Soviet government in questions of military organizational development and the training and indoctrination of Soviet soldiers. Our regulations generalize the Soviet Armed Forces combat experience and practical experience of postwar combat and political training. Therefore REGULATION REQUIREMENTS ARE SUBJECT TO STRICT EXECUTION BY ALL SERVICEMEN.

In taking the oath a soldier swears TO LEARN MILITARY AFFAIRS CONSCIENTIOUSLY. It is difficult to imagine a soldier or sailor without a knowledge of military affairs or without the ability to handle weapons and combat equipment. The great Lenin willed that Soviet soldiers learn military affairs in a genuine manner and he emphasized that military training requires lengthy, strenuous and disciplined work. It was military proficiency that the 26th CPSU Congress called one of the important component elements of the Soviet Armed Forces combat potential.

On entering the ranks of the Armed Forces a soldier swears TO SAFEGUARD MILITARY AND PEOPLE'S PROPERTY IN EVERY WAY. This requirement also is aimed at strengthening the might of the Soviet state and our Armed Forces. Military property, weapons and combat equipment make up the material basis of the Army and Navy's combat might. Our people supply their defenders with everything they need for life, combat training and an immediate rebuff to any aggressor. The people's funds are spent on up-to-date combat vehicles and weapons. Therefore every soldier and sailor is obligated to care solicitously for his entrusted weapon or combat equipment and keep them fully serviceable and in combat readiness.

Utter allegiance to the military oath is a matter of honor and conscience for the soldier. The oath which is taken becomes a very important and inviolable law of his life. It is the law from which there can be no deviations. It is not said for nothing: "Having taken the oath, don't stray a step from it," and "The oath to a soldier is sacred." Violation of the oath is a very grave crime against the Motherland, for in taking the oath, a soldier declares: "And should I violate this my solemn oath, then let the stern punishment of Soviet law and the universal hatred and contempt of workers befall me."

In fulfilling resolutions of the 26th CPSU Congress, Soviet soldiers guard the Motherland's sacred borders vigilantly. The greeting of USSR Armed Forces personnel to the 19th Komsomol Congress states: "In perceiving the acuteness and complexity of the international situation and our native party's concern for world destiny, we declare with full confidence: The Soviet Armed Forces are

always on guard! And should the interests of the beloved Motherland's security and the defense of peace and socialism demand it, Soviet soldiers will fulfill their patriotic and international duty with honor."

Soviet soldiers also are obligated to this by the military oath, a sacred oath of allegiance to the socialist Motherland.

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ARMED FORCES

NONMILITARY PRESS COVERAGE OF MILITARY LIFE

Arctic Communications Site

Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 16 Jul 82 p 3

[Article by IZVESTIYA correspondent L. Kapelyushnyy: "A Soldier on Duty: White Sails of the Arctic"]

[Text] In two winters and one summer Tursunbek Burbayev became accustomed to the color white--the color of ices and snows. Now the time had come to say farewell to the Arctic. Documents already had been written for the soldier sending him to his native Dzhambul. But the quiet sadness of parting mingled with the upcoming joy of meetings. Tursunbek headed from the barracks to the concrete stairs, named the "Potemkin stairs" by some unknown person, and climbed step by step to the top of the hill on which the antennas droned like sails in a brisk wind. Their curved mirrors looked in three directions. The fourth direction was the Arctic Ocean, a cold wasteland from which signals did not arrive and where there was no one to receive them.

Tursunbek ascended to the equipment building where the duty shift was performing service in providing communications. Subscribers were surprised that they were speaking from afar but it seemed they were right next door. They never thought about the path taken by the radio waves in rushing between the troposphere and earth until they turned into words. And no one especially knows about the hill lost among thousands of similar hills in the Arctic expanses where Viktor Mikhaylovich Malyarov's military subunit maintains communications.

Tursunbek is not a communicator. He is a driver, but a driver who has not had a vehicle break down once in his entire service. This is a detail of no small importance when we consider that it was Tursunbek who was the link between the hill and the settlement looming black in the distance. Commander Malyarov, whose position prescribes that he love all privates the same as a father loves his children, was incapable of concealing his sympathy for Burbayev. And for Dzhambulat Karakuzashvili, commander of a squad of radio operators, and for Sergey Kustenkov, an excellent diesel man. And for Sergey Filev, who before the Army was an engineer for prestressed concrete and now was depot chief and bookkeeper. And for everyone who serves honestly.

I seized on Malyarov's words. That meant there also were those who were just happy to see the day end? "There are those for whom it is more difficult to get used to service, and they become genuine soldiers late," Malyarov gently corrected me. And he advised talking with Dzhambulat Karakuzashvili on this subject.

It is difficult to serve in the Arctic in general, let alone at a "site," as remote garrisons are called in everyday usage. Both the stern mood of local surroundings and the remoteness have an effect. But sadness too grips Tursunbek not without reason--the soldiers live as one family, one household.

Honestly speaking I marveled at this house and, putting it up against my own enlisted service, I also envied it. It meets the traditional concept of barracks if only for the cleanliness... There was a messhall, medical station, gymnasium and sleeping area under the same roof--all services in short. The sensible nature of the plan merits praise not only because there is little place on top of a hill. Movements from building to building are simply dangerous in winter during the polar night, and the orderly strictly sees to it that no one goes outside in a state of undress, even if for just a minute. The equipment building always has an emergency store of food, and although the path to it is 100 m long, a relief sometimes cannot be made at the designated time. This is because a storm here not only comes with snow, but also with rocks. The hill doesn't have a grass cover. It is shaly in structure and a gale-force wind blows stones the size of a fist. And so the ordinary snowstorm already is taken as a blessing here although it too is nothing to trifle with...

While I was a guest of the signalmen I was told in different versions the story of how the wind lifted up a soldier returning from duty on top of the hill. The soldier grabbed a handrail and whipped around there until help came. I inquired of the commander as to whether that really had happened. Viktor Mikhaylovich laughed and responded evasively that it was not so important as to whether it had or had not happened. It was important that the handrails always be secure and that the signal lanterns on the support posts be burning for the polar night, and that all movement routes be marked with luminescent paint.

My TDY coincided with an event of no small importance. The subunit had received replacements. The lads, who had undergone basic training and had very short haircuts, asked the oldtimers in surprise when spring would come and whether there was a summer. They were enlightened: The tundra blooms in August and that's your summer. And it is understandable that Tursunbek was not sparing of words to describe the beauty of the summer tundra--he even refused an announced short leave home in order to view it. The young people listened to this admission with disbelief, with such disbelief. But that was how it was, confirmed Malyarov.

According to tradition the replacements were greeted with a festive dinner: There was something to drink and biscuits on the tables, there was elegantly spread pinkish lard, and the smoked cisco gleamed with amber brilliance. The purveyor, cook Sergey Kargenov, stood at the opening to the kitchen with

folded arms and awaited praise. He was praised for the borshch and for the plou but, like all true cooks, he jealously watched to see if there was still something on the plates or whether people would ask for seconds. And I realized what was behind the oldtimers' words for the young people: "They don't feed us like mother does..."

The mothers will have to forgive me, but it is tastier at the "site." And it is more diversified despite the remoteness. I say this after leafing through menus from the beginning of the year. They included coffee, both condensed and conventional milk, all kinds of northern fish delicacies, lard and homemade sausage in addition to the meat dishes, and all the groats with which I am familiar...

In contrast to conventional subunits, first-term soldiers--Sergey Filev, with whom we already were familiar from the commander's comments, and Anatoliy Reul, chief of the supply section--handle all administration in the northern subunit. There are no indulgences for them in internal service. Everyone is equal before the regulation. But it is not difficult to guess what it means to feed such a family well and provide them with clothing and shoes that are warm and clean without forgetting about comfort. But as we already could see, they are coping.

The complex machinery of the soldier's routine was not revealed to me all at once. As any other in his place would have done, Malyarov acquainted me first of all with the equipment rooms. Everything there shone and gleamed, which did not surprise me because I knew where I was going. Malyarov's collective has not conceded first place in socialist competition to anyone for several years in a row. In the barracks hall (how uncommon is the combination of these words!) certificates and the Komsomol Central Committee Red Banner appear under glass.

The following detail helped me understand the reason the personnel are receiving symbols of recognition of their conscientious service. Chatting with the signalmen, I asked them to tell about the difficulties of the watch and the troubles and tough situations which arose, and the dandified signalmen showered me with terms, most of which I didn't understand, and also gave examples from the technical jungle. I looked with yearning at their badges showing they were rated specialists, and at the little diamond shapes of tekhnikums...

"But does it happen that communications are lost?" I asked.

"There have been practically no interruptions in recent years."

Can you imagine the schooling?

And now about a new recruit's monologue uttered in the most democratic place in the Army world, the smoking room. This monologue was addressed more to himself than to colleagues, but perhaps therein lies its particular value.

"The eternal truths such as 'service goes on while a soldier sleeps' are invalid for this site. You have noticed that where there is the slightest disorder no one awaits a command; it's cleaned up in a flash. But I have to admit that what struck me most was the pigsty. Not the messhall, not the equipment building and not even the diesel room where the engines are painted like ivory, but the pigsty. Thirty pigs which appear to have been bathed in a tub, and a mirror. I asked this lad: 'Why the mirror? Do they pretty themselves up in front of it or don't they go to the trough without taking a look?' And all this by the way means that if you don't want to stand out like a sore thumb, try, try, try..."

As a matter of fact, there is a mirror hanging in the pigsty, and a specific odor doesn't strike the nose thanks to Petr Pyrtsak, who recently received a monetary bonus from the command element for exemplary management of the subsidiary farm. The soldiers receive a tangible benefit from it and now Malyarov is examining an initiative from below to build a hothouse... And when we recall the conversation in the smoking room, it turns out that both cleanliness in the barracks and tasty food in the messhall all has a direct relationship to seeing that communications are not interrupted even for five seconds.

I sought and found an opportunity to chat with Dzhambulat Karakuzashvili on this subject. You may recall it was at Malyarov's advice.

Everything was going well and smoothly for this lad. At age 16 he already was a student in the computer mathematics and cybernetics faculty of the Moscow State University. He got sick of studying by the second year. A notice from the military commissariat relieved him of the necessity of deciding what to do, but in his heart the ex-student believed he deserved a better fate. Nothing was just quite right for him, and he was dissatisfied with everything. As it often happens, he was not understood in the soldiers' environment. The extra details and criticisms did not give him authority or weight.

There were many talks with Dzhambulat, many strict conversations, and it was well that the lad had enough strength to recognize that in general, with his "basic higher education," he had done little to catch up with his contemporaries.

He himself told me how he had broken his character and thanked his stars that he had come to serve specifically in the Arctic, where he received an opportunity to test and check his ideas of courage in action. For the first time in his life the Army taught him to do something with his own hands--he became a radio operator. And it turned out that there was oh so much he didn't know of what he already had taken and covered...

It is generally known that the North tests characters for strength, but Army service is not a civilian existence where if you didn't like the looks of the Arctic you could get on an aircraft and fly home. A soldier serves where he is ordered, and the usual replacements come to Viktor Mikhaylovich Malyarov. A matter of days are given for assimilation and familiarity, and already the demand both on the new recruit and the oldtimer is the same in tomorrow's

team on duty: Communications must function reliably. In that situation, the commander believes, it is important for the soldier himself to sense the full measure of responsibility for the assigned job and allow himself no slack in anything. And there is no more effective means of indoctrination than personal example, and no more reliable indoctrinator than the collective.

Viktor Mikhaylovich completed military academy several years ago. He likes service at the site and, judging from the fact that he received his last officer's rank ahead of schedule, service is also satisfied with him. In age he would be suitable as an older brother of his subordinates, and he conducts himself in approximately the same way with them. He spends more time on the hill than at home. In winter during the polar night this is to cheer up the soldiers so that they do not feel themselves alone or forgotten. Once Viktor Mikhaylovich and the political deputy went out in a blizzard from the settlement to the mountain to show the lads that the blizzard was not really so terrible. They arrived at midnight, checked the details and sat down in the messhall to drink tea. The orderly hesitated, stood about and then declared that if they were planning to go home on foot now, in the dead of night, they should keep in mind that people weren't being allowed out of the barracks.

Later after the constrained winter life Viktor Mikhaylovich "warms up" the soldiers with his own system. He undertakes a crosscountry race along the serpentine of the hill, and he himself is in front, or a soccer match, or weightlifting competitions. He drives the ball on an equal footing with them, noting who gets more tired and who has a poorer mood, because all this is related to reliability of communications.

We are sitting in the commander's office. The fog quietly creeps from the distant gorges, pressing close and slowly enveloping the settlement, the road to it and the distant ocean shore; the hill gradually separates from the earth and floats, rocking in silence, under the white sails of antennas.

...The Arctic also is calling someone now and is answering someone.

Correspondent's Report on Airborne Troops

Moscow KOMSOMOL'SKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 1 Aug 82 p 1

[Article by V. Gromov, Leningrad Military District: "The Assault Landing"]

[Text] "You'll go in my group," said Sr Lt Berezhnoy. "We'll 'tear up' the bridge and return. If they don't bracket us, of course..."

"What do you mean 'bracket'? Who?"

"They'll be expecting us at the bridge. Our own lads. They'll really be expecting us."

In order to fly together with Berezhnoy into the "enemy rear," I fired day and night on an equal footing with everyone, threw live grenades, blew up rails in the combat engineer compound, ran through the forest without compass

or map, sat for hours at the radio, and packed the parachute until I was exhausted. With it in practice jumps I later went along the belly of the AN-12, thundering from our footsteps, up to the last threshold, separated from it and flew downward...

It was not a stroll that lay ahead. We were preparing to perform a serious assignment and the airborne personnel had to be sure that I would not let them down.

Dry rations were drawn and the commander signed for explosives, flares and blank cartridges. Sgt Boris Sergeyev, our radio operator, reported that his set was in order. Everyone was somewhat excited. They poured out stories in a seemingly special way as if trying them on, and they would glance at each other.

A red moon protruded provocatively in the window and I had the thought that tomorrow the weather would be fine.

It was a feeling as if everything after that occurred in a single instant: being aroused at the signal, the brief assembly, the crowded night vehicle taking us to the airfield, the swift boarding of the aircraft, the sound of a siren and blinking of the red eye of a signal lamp beneath the "Anton's" tail ramp opening into emptiness, the abrupt blow of the air stream, the jerk of the ring and, a second later, deafening silence...

We landed compactly and so assembled rather quickly at the edge of a coniferous forest which arched around the sandy field above which the aircraft we had left droned busily a minute ago.

"Koridze, the spoon is making noise," muttered Berezhnoy. "Fix it! Sgt Novozhilov is the last person. Don't fall behind. After me, march!"

...We ran through the forest. "Ran" is of course a very loose way of saying it, because the sector which we had to cross at top speed was not one of the simplest. Some kind of nasty muck squished below in which our legs would sink to the ankles, spiderwebs stuck to our eyes now and then, and dry branches grabbed our clothing and painfully lashed our cheeks.

A halt!

"Another five minutes," said the commander and looked at his watch, "even so we barely plodded along..."

We flew across the highway to the nearest stand of trees, as ordered, at a gallop.

Berezhnoy spread a map on the ground, placed the compass on it and took out a dagger.

"There's our bridge!" The dagger rested on a black bracket thrown across the blue vein of a river. "Any questions?"

There were no questions.

"Eat breakfast!"

The airborne pack is a good thing. Although it's a younger brother of the merited soldier's "sidorka," it turned out to be more convenient in all respects. There are all kinds of little pockets and if you arrange everything in them skillfully and scientifically, the necessary article is at hand in an instant. Here's the stewed meat and I remember that behind this flap are the biscuits and here the wafers. Here are the flares and this--careful!--is the smoke-puff charge. Everything is in place. Jr Sgt Skvortsov cut the bread. Klezis opened canned goods for everyone. The talk died down.

"All right!" said the commander. "You understand, I have a certain feeling of joy: When you're working, when you're performing work for which you have been taught and which--you recognize it--you are able to do well. You feel yourself to be a real lad." Berezhnoy paused a second and suddenly exclaimed: "I am a small bit of this force. Why are you smiling, Skvortsov?"

"It's not just a bit! I still remember how you moved me away during the unit rugby championship."

"As you were, Skvortsov! You should have trained better!"

It somehow became easier to run. Either the forest was more open or I had gotten used to it, but fatigue no longer rested on me as such a heavy burden. It was an even and somehow quiet weight.

Suddenly the clouds came up from who knows where and soon a nasty, fine drizzle began. Boris Sergeyev took off his radio set, swearing, carefully wrapped it in his cape and again put it in the pack.

...We made our way to the stream, wet to the bone. It was getting dark but the commander still forced us to camouflage ourselves and, without giving it much thought, we plunged into the dense osier thickets, which shook down at least a bucket of water on each of us.

The radio operators, combat engineers Oranezov and Koridze and I gathered under Berezhnoy's "commander's" bush over which Sgt Vazhinskiy had contrived to stretch two shelter halves. Berezhnoy checked with the map and ordered:

"Sergeyev, transmit: 'Arrived at objective. Beginning performance of mission'..."

Skvortsov returned from reconnaissance. He said that only one sentry was walking on the bridge and the rest--"I don't how many there are there"--were sitting in a hut a bit lower. There were bushes near the bridge on our side, the snatch group could assemble there unnoticed, and the approaches were good.

The combat engineers departed into the darkness. The senior lieutenant sent Klezis and Skvortsov with them as a screen. The lads were given an hour for everything. The hands on Berezhnoy's commander's watch dial indicated 2300 hours. He assembled the others under his bush, forbade them to smoke and once again updated the mission.

"We approach the bridge under maximum concealment. The last hundred meters will be at a crawl. We'll group together in the bushes near the approach ramp. At the signal we go like a shot over the bridge. We'll assemble here," said Berezhnoy as he poked the map.

The bridge could be seen from far off. It was not a very large highway bridge rooted with its three piers into the bottom of a quiet stream, gleaming in the light of lanterns. Our lads already were working somewhere there.

Berezhnoy, who was going in front, turned and waved his hand. We fell into the grass and crawled forward, into the shadow of large bushes.

I extended my legs and with the toes of my boots quietly scraped out two little holes in the clay so that I could push upward more adroitly, and I cautiously moved the submachinegun safety downward. My neighbors could not be seen in the darkness and it seemed to me that I was lying quite alone in these bushes and that I alone would have to run across this somehow unnaturally brightly lit ribbon of the bridge in a few minutes.

..."Pss-st!" A sharp hiss cut the silence and three red flares blossomed out with a characteristic loud pop above our heads in that very second.

Someone tumbled the sentry on the path to the right and someone, kneeling down, showered fire on the hut from which people were running. There was a loud thumping to the rear... A pine branch bitingly struck my face. I turned my ankle and rolled into a pit. Illuminating flares hovered above a bit to the rear and single rounds rang out, but I already understood that we had taken the bridge...

In about two hours, after wrapping my ankle with an elastic bandage and leaning on a stick, I oriented myself and came across the trig point--a wooden tower sticking out in solitude on top of a hill. I sank down beneath it.

When the entire group had assembled it already was getting light. We formed up. Honestly speaking, little remained of our once shining appearance: We stood wet and dirty, I was resting on a stick and a bright red scratch extended across Sergeyev's entire cheek.

"Thanks for the service, comrades..." said the senior lieutenant quietly.

"We serve the Soviet Union!"

Development of Military Aircraft

Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 12 Aug 82 p 6

[Article by A. Gorokhov: "A Glance Across the Years: 'King of the Fighters'"]

[Text] On 15 August--USSR Air Fleet Day--an air sports holiday dedicated to the 60th anniversary of the USSR's formation will be held in the capital's Tushino Airfield of the USSR DOSAAF Central Air Club imeni V. P. Chkalov. The strongest aviation sportsmen in the country will take part.

And I recalled the gloomy August morning of 1946, the overcrowded streetcar to the village of Shchukino, and then the ponton bridge across the Moscow-Volga Canal and the enormous flying field filled with people... For the first time since the war 300,000 (!) Muscovites came to Tushino to view an airshow. Clinging to our parents' hands--it was not very hard to get lost--we peered into the cloudy sky where a fabulous, heretofore unprecedented performance was being played out. An enormous five-pointed star consisting of the PO-2 light night bombers floated by. Following it were five PO-2's, connected with a ribbon. That is how that show began. That is how the name of aviation designer Polikarpov was etched in memory for the first time.

The formidable Il'yushin ground attack aircraft, the IL-2, is in first place among Soviet aircraft in numbers built--a little over 36,000. And second, with 33,000 machines, comes the U-2 biplane trainer developed by Nikolay Nikolayevich Polikarpov, which took off in January 1928.

It was an unprecedented event, as they say: the PO-2, as the "flying desk" was renamed in 1944 after the death of its creator, began to be "written off" only in the summer of 1959.

In just 28 years of professional work of building aircraft he managed to design over 80 models, the output of which was approximately 55,000 aircraft.

It is logical that the aircraft of Hero of Socialist Labor, two times USSR State Prize laureate, Deputy to the USSR Supreme Soviet, 1st Convocation, Nikolay Nikolayevich Polikarpov, who this summer would have been 90 years old, invariably were among the chief participants of the prewar Tushino airshows.

...Marianna Nikolayevna Polikarpova remembers how her father, who learned in the fall of 1941 about the formation of women's aviation regiments, including one with the U-2, became agitated and began calling Marina Raskova.

"This is strictly a training aircraft. How can it be used for military purposes," he said in anger.

Later the designer admitted that the qualities of the "air sloth" such as its designers had never dreamed were revealed in the "fragile" hands of women.

Polikarpov's apartment was in the quiet area of Moscow called the Patriarch Ponds in the old fashion. Here he lived his last six years. His office contains a massive writing desk with a Reno clock and models of the U-2, R-5 and I-185 aircraft. There are binoculars in a worn case. There is an ancient walnut secretary at which he loved to work. There's a Parker with a worn tip, a pencil portrait by Georgiy Vereyskiy made in his lifetime, and bookshelves containing Plutarch, Aristotle, albums of reproductions, Russian and foreign aviation books. Silent witnesses to one life which would have been quite sufficient for five others...

The son of a priest did not go into the church, but became an engineer. He completed the Petrograd Polytechnical Institute 1½ years before the October Revolution and began working for I. Sikorskiy, creator of the famous "Il'ya Muromets," at the Russko-Baltiysk Traincar Plant as the head of aircraft production. Sikorskiy left for America soon after the Revolution. He also asked Polikarpov to come with him. The latter was firm: "I won't go anywhere out of Russia. I love my home and my people."

Then there was Moscow, the former Duks bicycle plant and the first steps of the design collective, which in the prewar years became the main supplier of tactical fighters for the Red Army Air Force. And aircraft came which really were better than foreign models. This permitted the designer to be called unofficially the "king of the fighters" even in his lifetime. The R-5 scout plane took first place at the international competition in Iran. There is the world altitude record of Vladimir Kokkinaki in the I-15. The popularity of the "little donkey" I-16, nurtured by Valeriy Chkalov. The VIT-2 (air fighter of tanks--second) with outstanding flying qualities for those times, also taken up by Chkalov in May 1938. And probably the peak, the I-185 fighter.

...Marianna Nikolayevna together with her son Andrey, an aviation engineer, treat guests to aromatic tea which their father and grandfather loved. Distinguished guests arrived here at the Patriarch Ponds on the eve of Air Fleet Day.

At the beginning of his career as test pilot, HSU and Honored Test Pilot of the USSR Konstantin Kokkinaki worked near the Polikarpov personnel. He was well acquainted with Valeriy Chkalov, whom he admired. He even spoke with him on that icy December day of 1938 when Chkalov crashed in the first take-off of the I-180, intended for replacing the obsolete I-16's.

"I flew in practically all of Polikarpov's series-produced aircraft," recalls Kokkinaki. "I left for China as a volunteer and there fought against the Japanese militarists in the I-15bis and the I-16. After returning I visited Nikolay Nikolayevich. He asked me meticulously about combat actions and listened attentively, just as he always did by the way, when I said that the weapons aboard the fighters were rather weak and the speed already was insufficient. Several regiments were made up of test pilots at the beginning

of the Great Patriotic War and again I left for the front. Polikarpov regarded the test pilots with enormous respect and attention. Who tested his aircraft? Aleksandr Zhukov, Mikhail Gromov, and he himself. Chkalov, my brother Vladimir, Tomas Suzi, Yevgeniy Ulyakhin, and Petr Stefanovskiy. The chief designer suffered especially if accidents happened.

"As a matter of fact," adds Marianna Nikolayevna, "when unpleasant things happened Father would come home blacker than a stormcloud, shut himself up in his office and would not come out for a long while..."

One such "period" in Polikarpov's life was on the mind of Mikhail Kuz'mich Yangel', an associate of his KB [design bureau], who many years later became an academician, a twice-honored Hero of Socialist Labor, and a prominent designer of space rocket systems. In the fall of 1939 he wrote to his wife in Moscow from the plant which was mastering production of the I-180: "You probably read in today's newspaper about the death of pilot Tomas Pavlovich Suzi. . . . The disaster which occurred shook me very strongly, and not only because a remarkable person died. The fact is that he is already the second prominent person to die in an aircraft designed by our collective, in the aircraft which is the reason for my TDY..."

Now a word from Natal'ya Fedorovna Kravtsova, a Hero of the Soviet Union and one of the women pilots in those same U-2's, who has 980 combat sorties to her credit. She wrote about this difficult and far from woman's work in her stories.

"How did we fly?" says Natal'ya Fedorovna, repeating the question. "This of course now seems astounding. At night, and several sorties a night, in any weather. We had to. . . . But do you know what our aircraft were called? The 'Royal Air Force.' And the infantrymen called the U-2 the 'front first sergeant'..."

"When we speak about Polikarpov's school," says Nikolay Zakharovich Matyuk, Hero of Socialist Labor and a laureate of the Lenin and USSR State prizes who joined Polikarpov's KB in early 1933, joining in the discussion, "I also would name those students and colleagues of his who later became famous designers such as Artem Ivanovich Mikoyan and Mikhail Iosifovich Gurevich, creators of the 'MiG's.' S. Kocherigin, M. Bisnovat and V. Yatsenko also engaged in design work under him. . . . Polikarpov managed to create a school for the design of light combat aircraft covering the entire difficult path from wood to metal..."

There was a meeting in the editorial office of PRAVDA in October 1942 with workers of the defense industry. A large photograph recorded this meeting: People's Commissar of Armaments D. F. Ustinov, People's Commissar of Ammunition B. L. Vannikov, People's Commissar of the Aviation Industry A. I. Shakhurin, and chief designers Il'yushin, Mikulin and Klimov. One senses from the smiles on their faces that things were going well for the aviation people. In the center in a leather jacket is a broad-shouldered Polikarpov with a calm look: the "king of the fighters."

Report From Attack Helicopter

Moscow KOMSOMOL'SKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 15 Aug 82 p 1

[Report by KOMSOMOL'SKAYA PRAVDA correspondent V. Gromov from the cockpit of a combat helicopter in Leningrad Military District: "Today is USSR Air Fleet Day: The Crew"]

[Text] We were flying out to destroy tanks. Somewhere there beyond the red-dish swamp, beyond the silent forest blossoming with fantastic colors they stood ready for a march and a night attack. They stood without yet knowing that a quarter-hour ago our group of combat helicopters took off from a forest airfield, already having decided their fate, and that those few dozen minutes which we still needed for the approach to the target had become the final ones for the tanks...

There was no weather. For the third day in a row now the sky was packed with clouds from early morning, a cold wind whipped the face and now and then an irksome rain swooped down. Shrouded in canvas, the helicopters stood deserted in the field and seemingly huddled under the streams of water. The pilots walked around somberly, sat in jackets with fur collars in the tactical training classrooms and lazily cursed the weather.

The LTU--tactical flying exercise--was tentatively set for Friday night, but even the regimental commander could not affect the caprices of the "heavenly office," which judging from everything was attempting to cancel its debt in the "precipitation" column for the previous half-year in these three days.

"Don't get excited," said Lt Volodya Leontyuk, the commander of my helicopter's crew, "remember the situation: an LTU at night under bad weather conditions. Everything will fall into place. The weather can't get worse! Be calm..."

Finally on Friday morning the commander uttered the long-awaited words on greeting me in the messhall: "Everything's fine. Today."

Now everything was ready. A map hung in the large classroom where the crews engaged in the LTU gathered. Across the map was a precise and very stirring inscription: "Commander's decision for combat actions." The exercise directors briefed the situation.

Navigators practiced witchcraft with their rules, checking with some kind of data on the plotting board, and then together with the commanders trampled about a bit on the parade field where the exercise area was plotted in bright colors. This tramping about resembled a merry children's game, but none of its participants even smiled.

I noted one feature in the pilots--as if having agreed on this, they usually assure you that they have dreamed of the sky since childhood. Leontyuk for example thinks quite seriously that for him personally everything was decided in seventh grade when he presented poems in a school evening about conquerors of the sky on the advice of Russian language teacher Irina Pavlovna.

Later Volodya left for Saratov and soon sent home a photograph in which his still very boyish neck was severely drawn up by the collar of a cadet tunic. Everything was terribly interesting: classes on the simulators, training flights with the instructor, the heart-grabbing jumps with a parachute. Volodya believes that he was luckiest of all in the jumps...

That day girls took off together with the cadets. He took notice of one of them--from her appearance still very young--while still on the ground and condescendingly thought: "Where's she going?" But this "she" stepped boldly out of the aircraft and forced him to look on her with respect. And when Volodya looked... But the "weather conditions" suddenly became complicated. Leontyuk once saw his parachutist Galya together with Lt Col Vlasenko, an instructor of his own school, and learned that this was his daughter... A problem? But three years later the lieutenant colonel learned that he would have to call this intelligent cadet, whom yesterday he had given another "five" in helicopter flying, a son-in-law.

And so after completing school Leontyuk set off for the unit with a young bride. We of course wanted him to remain as an instructor--he had flown better than all the rest!--but his father-in-law dissuaded him and, handing him his well-traveled plotting board in parting, he said: "Only among the troops will you become a true pilot."

In 270 days he became a crew commander. The youngest commander.

He had few flying hours for now, somewhere over 600. But he had in his service record a commendation from commanders of the highest rank.

No matter how long you have served in the Army the "Assemble!" signal always is a surprise. I realized that this was it from how the engines droned anxiously somewhere in the distance and how vehicles dashed swiftly through the narrow streets of the military compound and how the people ran!

In a few minutes we already were in the helicopter. Leontyuk was on the right, Khomutov in the left-hand seat and Chusov between them in the folding seat.

The helicopter rolled easily along the taxiway to the take-off strip. It now seemed alive and as if it even trembled from an unbearable desire to show us what all its restive horsepower was capable of.

The airfield was behind us and now we were heading over the very tops of pine trees, which merged in the gathering twilight into uneven, whimsically carved dark blue spots. The full moon loomed directly ahead along the course and it seemed but a stone's throw to it. There beyond that silvery lake we'll touch it...

The helicopter is obedient to Leontyuk. Slava Khomutov also has no time to rest: He checks with the map and reports when we have to make the next turn so as not to bungle the course.

"Slava, take over!" said Leontyuk, releasing the controls.

"I understood Commander..."

"You know, it was in childhood that I decided that I definitely would be a pilot," Khomutov told me pensively.

"Did you arrange things, devils?" I barked out. "Your commander has been yearning for the clouds since his cradle and now you begin to tell me... You saw an aircraft in fifth grade and decided to become a pilot?"

"Exactly! That's how it was! How did you know?" said Slava, pleased.

You sense your own age in the modern Army and even your own 32 years (hey, old man!) are already a good number of years... At one time when, far beyond the Arctic Circle, I stood on watch aboard a submarine Khomutov was grabbing up his pack and tramping to third grade.

He has a good, kindly face, strong working hands, deep dark eyes and a gentle smile. Perhaps he is somewhat sluggish, but this sluggishness is not at all from any kind of inhibition--otherwise he couldn't be a pilot!--but rather from thoroughness, from that character trait which in official documents is described as thoughtfulness. If you had occasion to read Army performance appraisals you could not help but notice that this is how it is written there: "A thoughtful commander." Slava is thoughtful. I realized from how quietly Leontyuk passed over control to him and how easily and naturally he took the helicopter's "reins" in his hands that there was complete mutual understanding and trust between the commander and his first assistant. In aviation they say that they have "flown together."

We were flying to destroy tanks. Of course these were not real fighting vehicles ready to spit fire and death from their long tubes. Inoffensive wooden dummies with illuminating lanterns--conventional targets--were standing on the range. But for some reason there was no thought of this and the fact that these conditional targets never would bring harm to anyone also was firmly forgotten. We carried live missiles aboard and we were performing a combat mission. We were flying to destroy tanks.

The pilots sat quietly in their seats and only the flight technician was "playing" with some kind of rather intricate switches on the panel...

It is the flight technician who feels the craft best in the crew. Every sound of its enormous metal body, each little wire of its electrical nervous system and each vein of its lines are in his memory. He checked and felt every little unit. That is necessary. Pilots have a traditionally respectful attitude toward technicians. No matter what you say, everything begins from the ground. In my crew it also was reinforced by the fact that the commander and copilot were much younger than their colleague, for whom more-over it was not the first time he had been called the best unit specialist.

Chusov at one time completed a strictly civilian school, worked in Tyumen', then as an instructor in Vyborg, and he even managed to be a process engineer in a plant. It stands to reason that for him Leontyuk and Khomutov are "young sprouts," but as befitting a wise and independent person he never shows this. Experience comes in time.

At one time all of us wanted to become pilots... For example I recently came across a photograph in an old album: I'm sitting on a divan six years of age, with a pilot's cap on my head. Aha! My uncle, a test pilot, had arrived on leave. I definitely then wanted to become a pilot.

It was seconds until the attack. The helicopter climbed, the commander's thumb threw back the safety on the launch button and in another instant pressed it. Salvo! The blinding lightning flashes carve into the target with a whistle. We maneuver and depart abruptly to one side. The tanks didn't pass.

I recently received a letter from Leontyuk: "Based on competition results our crew was declared best in the unit. There is other news: Chusov was accepted as a party candidate member and Khomutov's fiance arrived. In general, everything's normal..."

6904

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ARMED FORCES

EDITORIAL KEYED TO SUMMER PHYSICAL TRAINING

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 19 Jun 82 p 1

[Editorial: "A Sports Summer"]

[Text] The summer sports season is in full swing. Millions of Soviet citizens now are spending their leisure time in stadiums, on volleyball and basketball courts, in swimming pools and on tourist excursions. Thanks to concerns of the Communist Party and Soviet government, all conditions have been created in our country for physical culture activities. "Being an inalienable component of the entire social process," emphasized Comrade L. I. Brezhnev, "physical culture has an enormous effect on people's harmonious development and strengthening of their health, and it contributes actively to the flourishing of culture of all nations and nationalities of the Soviet Union."

Physical culture and sports took on a broad scope in the Army and Navy, where they serve purposes of improving troop combat readiness, perfecting field, air and naval schooling, and arranging the personnel's leisure time. Regular sports activities strengthen soldiers' health, create a cheerful mood in them, temper the will and affect the development of character. The CPSU Central Committee and USSR Council of Ministers Decree entitled "On a Further Upswing in the Mass Nature of Physical Culture and Sports" provided a powerful impetus to the development of sports among personnel and to involving soldiers in regular activities in sections and teams.

Mass sports work is being carried on well this season in many units of the Moscow and Central Asian military districts, the Moscow Air Defense District, the Group of Soviet Forces in Germany, the Airborne Troops, and aboard a number of ships of the Northern and Black Sea fleets. The sports facility and equipment were placed in order ahead of time there, the work of sections and teams was adjusted, practices in which almost all personnel are included are held regularly, and a clear-cut system of competitions has been developed. Emphasis is being placed on applied military sports and exercises: the military triathlon, officers' combined games, negotiation of obstacle courses, and militarized relay races including elements of combat training. Starts of the All-Army Komsomol-Youth Crosscountry Race have assumed a broad, mass nature in these units and aboard these ships.

But there also are other examples. Many serious deficiencies were revealed in mass sports work in units of the Ural Military District. The sports

facility there is in a neglected state. Morning physical exercise in some subunits takes in few personnel and is conducted at a poor methods level. Many sections and teams work irregularly, competitions are held only occasionally, and the monitoring of training for VSK [Military Sports Complex] badge wearers and category holders is not being carried out to the proper extent. Physical training classes with officers and warrant officers are not arranged everywhere. There are deficiencies in mass sports work aboard some ships of the Pacific Fleet as well.

The summer period has to be used for a further upswing in the mass nature of sports, for an increase in the personnel's level of physical conditioning, and for development in soldiers of the qualities and skills needed for successful actions in modern combat. The personnel's mastery of norms of the Military Sports Complex and sports categories must be made the basis of this work. As experience shows, more attention should be given to developing the soldiers' endurance and reaction speed, to practicing hand-to-hand combat techniques, and to mountain training. Soldiers acquire high physical and moral-volitional qualities during short forced marches, lengthy (30-50 km) foot marches, swimming in clothing and with weapons, negotiating obstacle courses and running militarized crosscountry races. Regular practices must be arranged in applied military and technical sports, where activities contribute to the soldiers' faster and more qualitative mastery of their combat specialties. Soccer, handball, volleyball, basketball as well as folk sports such as gorodki and lapta, which do not require costly facilities, must see further development in the system of mass sports work.

Mass sports work should be tied in closely with missions being accomplished in the combat training process, and must be used as a means of reinforcing military discipline, making a collective cohesive and providing moral indoctrination of the personnel. Socialist competition must become a powerful factor in an upswing of mass sports in units and aboard ships. Komsomol members can and must be the pioneers of many interesting activities. Who if not they are to be initiators in mass sports work? "Komsomol members and all young boys and girls must engage regularly in physical culture, sports and tourism, and master military-technical knowledge," states the CPSU Central Committee greeting to the 19th Komsomol Congress.

A truly mass character is the basis for developing masters of sports, world champions, European champions and winners of the Olympic Games. This year Army and Navy athletes achieved no small success. The USSR national hockey team, where Army personnel set the tone in play, won the title of world and European champion. TsSKA [Central Army Sports Club] volleyball, basketball, hockey and handball players won gold medals at All-Union Competitions. Weightlifters set several world records. Athletes of the Central Asian Military District were among the brave Soviet mountain climbers who recently conquered Everest.

But not all Army teams demonstrate a high class of mastery. Soccer players of the TsSKA and the SKA (Kiev) team still play poorly in the first league. Sports fans are expecting more of soccer players of the Rostov SKA. The work of preparing swimmers who are masters of sport of an international class is

ineffective in sports clubs of the Far East and Odessa military districts. The low performance level of some Army and Navy teams is a result of mistakes in the training and conditioning process and in indoctrination work, poor use of foremost experience and the achievements of modern science, and often also an uncritical approach of their leaders to an analysis of previous performances. The path to success lies through strenuous practices, an imaginative search, an increase in the quality of the training and conditioning process, and strict discipline.

Physical culture and sports are an important factor for improving troop combat readiness, and it is the task of commanders, political officers, party and Komsomol organizations, sports committees, and physical training specialists to achieve their further upswing and make sports work in the Army and Navy truly massive.

6904

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ARMED FORCES

MILITARY JOURNALS REVIEWED

Moscow KRSNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 22 Jun 82 p 2

[Article: "Through the Pages of Military Journals: With the Readers' Participation"]

[Text] Beneath the rubric "The Reader Asks" the May issue of the journal VOYENNNYY VESTNIK contained an article by battalion political deputy Capt S. Makhinya entitled "How Can Effectiveness of Political Indoctrination Work be Achieved in the Company?" The author analyzed the state of affairs in the subunit and told how many measures were being taken there and various forms and methods of political indoctrination were being used. At the same time, the company has incidents of disciplinary infractions and some privates have a negligent attitude toward service and training. And results of the personnel's fulfillment of socialist pledges are not stable. What is the matter?

In answering this question the author tries to uncover the reasons. "There, you see," he writes, "the talk turned out to be rather dry, for a check mark on the plan; here a briefing was conducted hastily; there they 'forgot' to recognize an outstanding person or bring pressure on a negligent one in the dynamics of actions..." And Capt S. Makhinya concludes that some officers can not and sometimes do not wish to put their whole heart and all their abilities and knowledge into the assigned job, and they work without inspiration.

The author obviously is correct in many respects. But what is the opinion of other commanders and political officers? The editors decided to join in the officers' discussion in order to seek answers together to questions of importance for practical work.

VOYENNNYY VESTNIK has sufficient experience in organizing the discussion of current problems of personnel training and indoctrination.

For example, the journal's first issue for 1982 published an article by Sr Lt Ye. Veselov entitled "The Commander's Personal Example," under the rubric "The Reader Asks." The editors invited officers to take part in discussing the issues advanced by the author. Subsequent issues of VOYENNNYY VESTNIK introduced the rubric "Discussion of the Article 'The Commander's Personal Example'." Letters about officers' execution, tact and competency were published under the rubric.

VOYENNNYY VESTNIK regularly invites readers to explore, reflect, exchange opinions and hold a confidential discussion in the journal's pages on the most urgent issues of personnel training and indoctrination. There is a growth in the journal's authority, in the effectiveness of its articles and its influence on the development of soldiers' high moral-political, combat and ethical qualities.

In contrast to this practice it is regretful that the pages of some other military journals contain almost no collective discussions of current issues and there is an absence of an invitation to authors for exploration of new things and for an analysis and generalization of foremost experience.

Take the journal VESTNIK PROTIVOVOZDUSHNOY OBORONY for example. In the journal's fourth issue for 1982 there was an article by Lt Col V. Kolesnik, commander of a surface-to-air missile battalion, entitled "The Commander's Independence and Initiative." The author poses the question of ways to instil initiative using Lt A. Korniyenko as an example. The young officer's initiative was noted promptly by senior comrades, who supported his suggestion to make a new device for operator training. "I have no doubt," emphasizes Lt Col Kolesnik, "that this will become a good incentive for the young officer's further self-starting explorations." Here the officer reveals the problem of correlating creative initiative with requirements determining an officer's official activities. Some commanders, he notes, especially young ones, are beginning to take independence to be a certain state where everything is permitted. Others to the contrary are concerned little with initiative and independence.

What is the reason for this? That is the question which Lt Col Kolesnik asks in his article.

And here it would be well to unfold a discussion in the journal's pages of an issue of importance for military indoctrination. This would unquestionably be of benefit. It would appear that questions of indoctrination merit more careful attention by VESTNIK PROTIVOVOZDUSHNOY OBORONY.

The journal's February issue introduced the rubric "Facets of an Officer's Professional Expertise." It opens up with an article by Col A. Poveiy, commander of an outstanding surface-to-air missile regiment and a delegate to the 26th CPSU Congress, entitled "Readiness for Combat."

It poses the question of bringing daily combat training as close as possible to actual combat conditions. It is noted that in conducting a practice battle operators, weapons control officers and firers do not see the real enemy. They work with a symbol and with notes on screens. "Therefore," writes Poveiy, "it is extremely important to develop in people a sense of reality of what is occurring, which would stimulate their composure and sense of responsibility in performing operations which outwardly little resemble combat actions."

The author raises an interesting and important problem. How can it be solved? It obviously would be worthwhile for VESTNIK PROTIVOVOZDUSHNOY OBORONY to present this problem for a broad discussion of readers.

Or take the article by Lt Col Ye. Petrov, commander of an outstanding surface-to-air missile regiment, entitled "Effectiveness of a Commander's Work to Reinforce Military Discipline." It notes that the effectiveness of a commander's work to reinforce military discipline must be determined not from the number of measures taken but from how he uses the factors contributing to attainment of this goal in his practical activities. The author includes among such factors the commander's personal example, unity of word and deed, exactingness, sensitivity, strict observance of the principle that "the superior teaches his subordinates," and use of the indoctrinational role of all measures carried out in the subunit.

The author unquestionably has raised important issues in this article, but why not review each of the factors mentioned in more detail subsequently? And this is best done with the help of the readers themselves.

Only a deep penetration into the lives of Army and Navy personnel and a thorough, objective coverage of current issues of combat training, party-political work, socialist competition and a further reinforcement of discipline in their pages will permit military journals to do their bit toward improving the effectiveness of political, military and moral indoctrination of Soviet military personnel.

6904

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ARMED FORCES

FOLLOW-UP REPORT ON CRITICISM OF OFFICER'S ATTITUDE TOWARD SUBORDINATES

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 26 Jun 82 p 2

[Article: "Following KRASNAYA ZVEZDA Coverage: 'Connivance'"]

[Text] That was the title of an article published on 27 May by Lt Col V. Seledkin, which told about the crudeness of Maj S. Shakirov toward his subordinates.

As political officer Lt Col I. Yashchenko reported to the editors, Party Member Shakirov was given strict party punishment. The unit command element reinforced supervision over his official activities and is helping him improve his work style with people.

The article was discussed at a unit command-political conference at which specific steps were outlined aimed at a further increase in party members' sense of responsibility for observing party and military discipline.

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ARMED FORCES

JUNE MAILBAG REVIEWED

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 3 Jul 82 p 2

[Article: "KRASNAYA ZVEZDA Mail"]

[Text] The editors received 8,826 letters from readers in June 1982, of which 431 were published in the newspaper. There were 206 responses to KRASNAYA ZVEZDA articles.

June is the first month of the summer training period in the Army and Navy. It went on in an atmosphere of great political and labor enthusiasm in units and aboard ships, caused by resolutions of the May 1982 CPSU Central Committee Plenum. Many letters from readers attest to this.

WO L. Dubanevich of the Belorussian Military District writes: "Both in Comrade L. I. Brezhnev's report at the Plenum and in tasks posed in the USSR Food Program for the period up to 1990 the party's concern is expressed for a further increase in people's welfare, and for this reason today's interest in these historic documents is so great. They leave no one indifferent and force each person to ponder what his contribution will be to the nationwide struggle for implementing party plans and what he can do even today to realize them. There can be one answer--to strengthen the Motherland's defenses and vigilantly protect the people's labor by excellent service. That is what my colleagues are doing. From year to year they have been providing radar information for practice missile launches only with grades of outstanding. And in a recent exercise 1st Class operators Pfc A. Baramiya, Pfc A. Shirey, Pvt V. Nagurnyy and others demonstrated high combat schooling."

The flame of socialist competition for a worthy greeting to the 60th anniversary of the USSR's formation is burning ever brighter among the troops. For example, personnel of the artillery battery commanded by Sr Lt B. Vidyayev recently functioned exceptionally precisely and cohesively in field problems, considerably bettering combat norms. This is related in a letter from Lt A. Vasil'yev of the Transbaikal Military District. Capt S. Yakimchuk of the Central Asian Military District reports that military construction personnel of Sgt V. Nagoyev's brigade were overfulfilling shift assignments daily in June.

Among the responses to resolutions of the May CPSU Central Committee Plenum is a letter from Col (Res) V. Fal'shov of Moscow. It contains the following

lines: "I was born in Kaluga Oblast, but had not been in the area dear to my heart for a rather long time. But in June an opportunity presented itself and I went. I walked through the villages and fields of the Rossiya Kolkhoz and could not recognize places familiar from childhood. How everything changed here! The central farmstead of the kolkhoz was a modern settlement with a cultural club, trade center, boarding school, music school, children's combine and dining hall. Last year alone more than 200 of my countrymen moved into new apartments with all the conveniences. The kolkhoz has a large agricultural machinery pool and a modern feeding complex, and a rich harvest is ripening in its fields. This foremost farm in the oblast is headed by Hero of Socialist Labor G. Sonin. In leaving my native places I took away feelings of pride and joy for the major accomplishments and excellent life of my countrymen."

Yes, Soviet citizens are engaged in peaceful labor, but our successes in building communism evoke anger in the imperialists. They again are threatening war from across the ocean, and this time a thermonuclear war. This is why many of our readers' letters are permeated with concern for peace and for the need to be on guard and reinforce the Armed Forces' combat readiness. "Fascist Germany treacherously attacked our land 41 years ago," writes I. Sidorov, a Great Patriotic War participant from Ivanovo. "We have forgotten nothing from those fiery years. Memory preserves everything, and our foes should take this into account."

The frontlinesman expresses deep gratitude and thanks to the native Communist Party and to Comrade Brezhnev personally for the enormous contribution to the cause of peace and detente. He notes that every line of Leonid Il'ich's message to the 2d Special Session of the UN General Assembly on Disarmament breathes concern for the most important factor now troubling people of the entire planet--preventing a nuclear catastrophe and preserving a peaceful sky above the earth.

Vasilina Nikolayevna Stratiy of Chernovtsy Oblast has three sons. The older son is a Soviet Army officer, the middle son is completing first-term service and will enter a military school, and the younger son is growing up. He also is dreaming of an officer's profession. The mother is proud of her sons. In a letter to the editors she writes: "My sons, soldiers! All your comrades! Preserve peace on earth. Don't let war intrude again on our peaceful places. And we toilers of the field will respond to the party and government's concern for peace with vital labor."

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ARMED FORCES

BATTERY OFFICER'S FAMILY PROBLEMS DISCUSSED

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 4 Jul 82 p 2

[Article by KRASNAYA ZVEZDA correspondent Lt Col L. Golovnev: "In the Wake of a Letter: At a Difficult Moment"]

[Text] Dear editors! I wish to ask advice in order to understand my actions. A very difficult situation has taken shape in my family. My wife is seriously ill and, moreover, the children are sick--we have two. But my request to be sent on TDY and be given leave for family reasons was rejected. I began to leave my duties earlier than prescribed without permission. The regimental commander gave me punishment for this. I have had repeated unpleasant conversations on this matter with Gds Maj Tokarev as well...

Help establish justice. Just who is to be concerned with my family if not I myself?

Gds Capt V. Dusheyko

Is that really how it all was? A person was in a difficult spot, turned to senior comrades for help, but they wave him off and even show indifference? Somehow I didn't believe that this was possible.

...I met with Gds Capt Dusheyko in the unit duty officer's room.

"Try to understand," Vladimir Filippovich began his story, "my wife is getting worse every day. My son is five years old and my daughter six. I can't even get one permanent place in the kindergarten. And so I sit here, but my heart is there at home..."

I listened to Vladimir Filippovich and thought. The family situation was difficult. At the same time I sensed that something else held sway over the officer and was forcing him to suffer. Then I noticed that he lacked the armband of a regimental duty officer.

Catching my gaze, Dusheyko became embarrassed and quietly said:

"They relieved me of duty. Toward morning my head was aching and I laid down to rest, and then the regimental chief of staff came..."

Later I met with the chief of staff. It turned out that he had arrived in the regiment recently and had not yet come to know the people well. On coming across an infraction of order he immediately made a stern decision without thinking what a loss in authority it would bring to the battery commander, for Gds Capt Dusheyko's subordinates were performing duty on guard and in the interior detail. When I told the regimental chief of staff about this he agreed that he had made a hasty decision. Of course it was impossible to let the officer's misdeed go without exerting pressure, but the decision on this matter also could have been made after the duty.

It became clear from discussions with staff officers that some other decisions and conclusions regarding Dusheyko also were of an unjustifiably hasty nature, were made in an offhand manner and without consideration of the difficult family situation.

Before meeting with Gds Capt Dusheyko I chatted with a number of staff officers in the combined unit, visited the division's political department and the regimental staff. Here is what I was told there:

"Dusheyko is a good officer. He stands out for the best in the battery in special training," Gds Lt Col Yu. Samokhin said of Vladimir Filippovich. "It is also true that family adversities have made him irritable and reserved. Both we and his immediate superiors, including Gds Maj Tokarev, are at fault here. While we were placing strict demands on the officer, he did not find time to be at home and help in some way..."

"It's the first I've heard that Dusheyko has such a difficult situation," said the deputy chief of the division political department. "Dusheyko did not come to us... His superiors also did not report this. We'll look into it and definitely will help."

"Yes, Dusheyko has an unenviable situation in his family," agreed the regimental political deputy Gds Maj N. Korolev. "And we can't help him in everything. We also have families without apartments and we can't provide places in the kindergarten for everyone who needs them. He has to understand this and not place his resentments above the interests of service."

It is impossible not to agree with Korolev's concluding thought: One must not give in to a feeling of resentment. But it is also unquestionable that the unit political officer and party activists could show more sympathy here. If they themselves were incapable of resolving all problems they could have turned to the political department.

I was given many examples in the division political department and on the regimental staff where commanders and political officers had shown attentiveness and sympathy to people in such situations, especially to families of young officers. I was also told that the regimental commanders and their political deputies, including those of the aforementioned regiment, often

visited the dormitory and took an interest in the personal lives of young officers. Gds Capt Dusheyko already has "grown out of" the category of young officer, as they say. But this does not at all mean that his family does not need attention. Meanwhile, the opinion exists in the regiment that everything will come about of itself in the families of older officers: These people, grown wise from experience, are themselves in a position to handle their own family affairs. But life is enormously more complicated than any formulas, including one such as: "If you're not young, then handle everything yourself." Often a family with "seniority" needs more attention. And the important element which cannot be forgotten is that every officer and every family has the right to count on sensitivity and concern.

I would like to say something else. Any complications in the family of course do not occur without affecting each of us. But it is the duty of the man, particularly an officer, to show steadfastness and maturity in judgments and actions in such cases. And so from this viewpoint it would appear that Gds Capt Dusheyko cannot be justified in everything. Judging from his letter and his actions he surrendered to his mood and feeling of resentment, as they say.

"I agree," said Vladimir Filippovich in our meeting, "that I didn't show proper maturity here, I often grew angry, and exaggerated. I will try to keep from this in the future."

I recently phoned Gds Capt Dusheyko. His voice sounded quite different than in our first meeting. He informed me that "everything was falling into place." And I again thought how important it is at a difficult moment to retain presence of mind and have faith in the responsiveness of those around you.

6904

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ARMED FORCES

EDITORIAL PEGGED TO TACTICAL FIRE TRAINING

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 15 Jul 82 p 1

[Editorial: "Tactical Weapons Training"]

[Text] A special place in the struggle for a further improvement in combat readiness of Army and Navy forces is set aside for an improvement in tactical weapons training. This is determined by fundamental changes in means of armed struggle and in the methods of their employment in modern combat. Weapons and combat equipment, stressed USSR Minister of Defense Mar SU D. F. Ustinov in his report at the 6th All-Army Conference of Primary Party Organization Secretaries, can produce the proper effect only if they are in capable and reliable hands and if their study and the mastery of tactical employment methods are combined with a further improvement in the personnel's field, air and naval schooling, with the development of tactics and operational art, and with tactical teamwork training of subunits, units and ships. To ensure that the personnel's weapons training is closely linked with tactics is an important task for commanders, political entities and staffs.

Great importance is attached to this, for example, in the Red Banner Far East Military District. When personnel training is organized here the assumption is that modern combat is above all the continuous fire opposition of the sides. Troops learn to combine movement and maneuver with different kinds of fire pressure on the enemy on swampy woodland, in the taiga, on a seacoast and under other difficult conditions typical of the Far East. In particular, exercises in the motorized rifle regiment commanded by Lt Col P. Maslov are distinguished by high efficiency. Primary attention is given here to training personnel in the art of maneuverable, active and resolute actions both day and night. Such lessons as observation of the enemy, location and destruction of targets, and battlefield movements in combination with fire and so on are practiced here to the full extent. It is quite natural that the regiment's personnel demonstrate an ability to use the capabilities of equipment and weapons expertly in all exercises, including field firing.

At the same time, as practical experience shows, the heightened fire and maneuver capabilities of Army and Navy forces still are not being considered to the full extent everywhere in organizing tactical weapons training. In some problems, practices, firings and exercises proper attention is not given to teaching personnel the integrated independent employment of fighting vehicle weaponry or effective destruction of objects and targets day and night on

varied terrain. During the winter training period such deficiencies were seen, for example, in the tank regiment which is the competition initiator in the Ground Forces. This led to a situation where, when the tankmen had to act under near-combat conditions on unfamiliar terrain in final problems, many of them were not able to detect and rapidly hit targets on their own. Everything must be done in the summer training period to ensure that gaps in tactical weapons training are remedied as quickly as possible.

One of the deciding factors determining success in tactical weapons training is bringing exercises, flights, and sea or ocean deployments as close as possible to actual combat conditions. In practice combat a situation must be created each time which prompts the sides to struggle for fire superiority and to conduct dynamic and maneuverable actions. The principle tested by experience of teaching what is necessary in war must become the immutable law here.

This requirement also relates fully to the organization of professional training of officers who have a deciding role in improving the tactical weapons training of unit and ship personnel. Proper actions are taken where emphasis in command training is placed on active training forms and methods and where officers are taught to think and act under conditions of an extremely rigid time limit and great moral-psychological and physical stresses. Consideration must be given to the fact that destruction of the enemy by fire in modern combat can be accomplished by all-arms means of warfare with the participation of practically all kinds of weapons. Consequently the combined-arms commander also must be taught to control the fire not only of small arms, but also of tanks, artillery and combat helicopters. A detailed study and creative application of Great Patriotic War experience is of permanent importance here. The experience of Exercise "Zapad-81" also is an effective factor for improving officers' tactical weapons training.

High quality cannot be assured in accomplishing tactical weapons training missions in the absence of the requisite training facility. Improvement of this facility is a subject of constant concern for commanders at all levels, for staffs, engineering-technical personnel, and groups of inventors and rationalizers.

The summer training period is the deciding stage in the struggle to fulfill pledges in competition under the motto "Reliable Protection for the Soviet People's Peaceful Labor!" It is important to make the fullest use possible of the mobilizing force of competition to train masters of fire and to reduce the time it takes for tactical teamwork training of subunits. Patriotic initiatives of soldiers in a struggle to hit targets with the first round, burst, shell or missile must be supported in every way, their desire to seek reserves in competition must be developed, and a sense of responsibility for successful implementation of training plans and socialist pledges must be instilled. Success of the matter will depend greatly on the ability of class instructors to arrange competition by tactical weapons training tasks and norms.

Together with commanders, staffs and political entities, the party and Komsomol organizations are called upon to make their contribution to a further improvement in tactical weapons training. Expert mastery of combat equipment and weapons, effective use of training time and the training facility, an improvement in the methods level and quality of every class, and development of a spirit of competitiveness among servicemen and subunits must become an object of their special attention. Every party and Komsomol member must be the example in tactical and weapons training.

Achieving new successes in tactical weapons training of Army and Navy forces in the summer training period means raising their combat readiness even higher.

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GROUND FORCES

TACTICAL FIELD RECONNAISSANCE

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 3 Jun 82 p 2

[Article by KRASNAYA ZVEZDA correspondent Maj M. Ziyemin'sh, Red Banner Far East Military District: "Troop Field Schooling: From Frontline Experience"]

[Text] In the semicircle of hills which resembled each other nothing gave away the presence of the opposing sides' subunits. Meanwhile, they were preparing intensively for upcoming combat actions. Mutual reconnaissance was being performed and the staffs were working intensively...

From preliminary data Maj A. Belokamenskiy, commander of the attacking motorized rifle battalion, knew that he had a superiority in personnel and weapons. This permitted hopes for success, but the battalion commander's attention soon was drawn to the following detail: At a place where a few hours ago reconnaissance had discovered "enemy" tanks and from which single shots were heard now and then, tank mock-ups now could be made out clearly. It turned out the "enemy" had shown cunning, taking advantage of the bad weather to regroup his forces.

After final reconnaissance the battalion commander made the decision to advance during the attack by APC's not behind the motorized riflemen's skirmish line, as usually happens, but in the intervals between the squads. This contributed to improved fire effect of machineguns mounted on the fighting vehicles. The battalion commander also provided for measures in case of a counterattack by assigning a reserve from the company commanded by Sr Lt S. Isayev, which was advancing in the center of the combat formation.

The outcome of the action was decided in the depth of "enemy" defenses. Having straddled a pass where a twisting road lay, the defenders tried to halt the attackers and reduce to naught the results of their fire concentration. It was then that the commander's ability to anticipate the course of events and react swiftly and correctly to sudden changes in the situation played its role. He ordered the commander of the subunit in reserve to envelop the defenders from the flank. An attack of the strongpoint from two directions was crowned with success.

A frontline stamp showed up clearly in the actions of the battalion commander and other officers in this exercise. This is a noteworthy detail, for there is not one participant of the Great Patriotic War among the regiment's

officers. The frontlinesmen's experience is not being placed in reserve, however; very careful attention is being given to its study and creative use in the unit. Tactical exercises naturally serve as the best school for subunit commanders in this regard. A situation is created in them which approximates the conditions of actual combat to the maximum and which demands high intensity and the ability to act in a frontline manner of the personnel, and of the officers above all.

The following episode, for example, often can be observed here during exercises: The "enemy" has wedged into a motorized riflemen's defensive area, control of the subunits has been disrupted, combat formations have been split up and scattered groups of defenders are fighting in encirclement. It also happens that the attackers plan to deliver the initial blow on an almost inaccessible sector of terrain (the "enemy" expects them there least of all) and later, in the dynamics of combat, the attack is shifted to another more accessible sector.

Saturation with complex elements and the dynamism of actions is the first thing typical of field problems and exercises conducted in the regiment. The second thing is an uncompromising struggle against indulgences and oversimplification in combat training. Let's assume a driver-mechanic failed to place the combat vehicle under cover from "enemy" fire in time during an exercise--this will invariably be noted and the unlucky specialist will have to work on recovering the "damaged" equipment from the battlefield. And should he place the vehicle's side toward the fire in an attack, a command will come immediately to replace a "damaged" track... All this permits bringing the training process closer to conditions of actual combat.

As we know, the ability to evaluate one's work of training and indoctrinating personnel through the prism of frontline experience is one of the most important qualities of a commander of any rank. This qualitatively acquires more and more importance as time separates us from Great Patriotic War events.

Of course, equipment and weapons have changed in comparison with the past and the nature of combat has acquired new features. Nevertheless the significance of frontline experience is intransient in modern combat as well, including small subunit actions. Numerous examples can be given attesting to how our commanders and political officers, relying on it, successfully carry on a search for new, unexpected tactics, methods for the most efficient use of the tactical capabilities of weapons and equipment, and for improving the personnel's moral-psychological conditioning. Various forms of work are used to draw officers' attention to frontline experience. They include meetings between the personnel and war participants, a study of the campaign record of units and combined units, and discussions of war literature.

Much is being done, but this does not at all mean that there are no deficiencies in the work of adopting frontline experience in the practice of personnel training and indoctrination or that all reserves for improving its efficiency already are exhausted. You sometimes see a battalion, let's say, in a tactical exercise breaking through defenses and you are surprised at the straightforwardness in actions of some officers and their lack of desire to

use a surprise maneuver and outwit the "enemy." The fact is, modern means of combat considerably expand their capabilities in this regard, but they are not always used.

"Underestimation of the 'enemy' and rejection of a maneuver, which we sometimes see in today's tactical exercises," writes Army Gen I. Tret'yak in his book "Khrabryye serdtsa odnopolchan" [Brave Hearts of Countrymen], "each time cause me disappointment. . . . Maneuver not only assured tactical superiority in a struggle against the enemy and not only built up force; in addition to all else, maneuver had a necessary moral-psychological effect on our soldiers, reinforcing their feeling of confidence."

Unfortunately instances where the "enemy" is underestimated in exercises and tactical passiveness is displayed are not that rare. Here, one could say, is a typical example. Subunits were disposed on the terrain. The "enemy" still was far off and already some believed that they could relax vigilance and attention to reconnaissance and concealment. Or let's say a subunit commander is going on ground reconnaissance and often takes along a work map with the tactical situation plotted on it in detail. It would be useful to recall that this was prohibited in wartime.

Other facts also can be cited.

Personnel of the company commanded by Capt I. Levchenko demonstrated insufficiently high results in one of the recent weapons training classes. It is true that the results were not the lowest in the regiment, but up until now Capt Levchenko was considered one of the best methods specialists and other officers took their example from him. They naturally had not expected such failure of him. When everything was carefully examined it turned out that weapons training in the company often was accomplished by the so-called coaching "method." Under it the trainees were informed where a target would appear, what kind it would be, and what sight setting to make. In short, the training went on under simplified conditions.

And it is not only in this company that frontline science at times is forgotten for some reason. Having taken up a position you yourself would determine without awaiting a command what kind of enemy was in front of you, where his weapon emplacements were located and how best to destroy him with fewest losses.

Of course, much that in the recent past could be accomplished, let's say, on the basis of personal experience, now requires more accurate calculations and substantiations. Life moves forward and we cannot help but reckon with this.

It was with regard for this that a long-range plan for military scientific work, for example, was drawn up in the district combat training and military educational institutions directorate. Many methods elaborations made by officers already have found application in troop combat training practice and have been praised highly by specialists.

To keep in step with life without at the same time forgetting the most valuable points from past lessons, officers study basic works on Great Patriotic War history and the most important operations in the process of command training in the units. In tests the question is posed as follows: Not simply make references to frontline examples, but in each specific case thoroughly interpret the ways of attaining objectives in combat--under what conditions and with what weapons were combat actions carried on, and why was it specifically these methods and techniques and not others that had to be used in that period? This approach to a study of theory helps officers develop techniques of conducting combat which respond most fully to present-day conditions. The meaning of their training is not to copy combat experience blindly and not look for ready-made formulas for today in it, but apply it in a really imaginative manner.

District staff officer Col V. Vetlugin is among those who persistently implement this principle. He proceeds from the assumption that it is impossible to learn frontline experience from books alone. Practical experience and systematic exercises are needed here as in any other matter. Here is a typical feature of his work style. In one exercise Col Vetlugin was present in headquarters at a briefing of information just received on the "enemy." It was clear from the briefing that a column of tanks and APC's had been discovered near populated point "X." After hearing his subordinate's report the commander made no critical remarks at all. But the report did not satisfy the officer from higher headquarters, a frontlinesman, because it said nothing about the column composition, about types of combat vehicles or about their numbers. Urgent steps were taken to clarify these details.

That time Col Vetlugin gave the young officers a good lesson. He told them how frontline scouts would determine types of enemy vehicles faultlessly from their silhouettes, the sound of operating engines and the clank of tracks, just as they determined what kinds of pieces were firing and from what distance based on the sounds of the fire and the shellbursts.

Frontline experience... This is our invaluable treasure. Studying it imaginatively and putting it at the service of combat readiness actively means in fact implementing a most important training principle: Teach troops what is needed in war.

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GROUND FORCES

TANK UNITS: FIRE TRAINING SUPPORT SERVICES DISCUSSED

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 16 Jun 82 p 1

[Article by Lt Col V. Berets, Red Banner Carpathian Military District:
"Next to the Barracks"]

[Text] Tank gunnery practice is under way in the weapons compound of tank unit "X." Personnel at all training stations are functioning precisely and nimbly in practicing the norms. It is noteworthy that the weapons compound where these classes are under way is not far from the barracks. The tankmen did not have to waste time on a lengthy trip to the practice site, as still often happens.

"It already has become customary for us to hold classes at the so-called barracks training facility," says tank company commander Capt V. Lun'o. "We have set up many training stations next to the barracks. This is very convenient and produces a good result."

This company as well as the subunits headed by Capt M. Kharitonov and Sr Lt V. Golovchenko achieved high combat training indicators in the winter training period.

An analysis shows that the tankmen's higher proficiency largely was determined by effective use of the barracks training facility, and this is natural. Having created good weapons and athletic compounds and other facilities right nearby, the tankmen do not waste time or engine resources for motorized or foot movements, which inevitably happens when training facility sites are a considerable distance from the barracks, and they have an opportunity to practice constantly without lengthy breaks, for example, in firing and the performance of operational training missions and norms.

It is impossible to ignore the fact that weapons compounds, moving target gunnery ranges and tactical fields in some units are far from permanent garrison locations. This creates great inconveniences and introduces arrhythmia to the training and indoctrination process. Although there is an opportunity to bring training facility sites nearer the barracks, this is not being done everywhere.

With regard to this unit's tankmen, the term "barracks" training facility has become a firm part of their lives.

Even before the training year began here, it was calculated how much time went for movements to and from class locations. They decided to expand a small weapons compound located near the barracks and make it suitable not only for simulator practices, but also for practice firings.

The tankmen did not strive for superfluous embellishments as is still the case in places when the training facility is improved. They made everything simply, from inexpensive materials, but reliably and wisely.

Take the following fact for example. When performing a preparatory firing exercise the company commander until recently had an opportunity to work only with one platoon. Rationalizers started thinking: Wouldn't it be possible to arrange it so he could control the entire company? It turned out it was possible. To this end they decided to expand the boundaries of the weapons compound after the end of the winter training period. Without interrupting the training process they prepared areas next to the existing training station and brought in the necessary supplies.

Now additional training stations are being made in the weapons compound where tanks are being placed on rocking frames. The target field also is expanding accordingly. Now one platoon has been working at each of the three training stations since the beginning of summer training. With the help of radio communications the company commander has an opportunity to control company fire from his console during practices and to work other missions with the personnel. This is a qualitatively new step forward in resolving problems of subunit tactical teamwork training.

The following innovation also merits attention. Regimental rationalizers Sr Lt V. Govenko and Sgt A. Yatsyshin developed and made a light signaling system which gives the class instructor and firers information about hits on targets during night firing. This raised the trainees' interest in the classes.

In making and improving the barracks training facility the tankmen also are capably solving problems of supply economy along with the improvement in effectiveness of practices. For example, fire was conducted from a machinegun previously in performing preparatory exercises. Skilled regimental craftsmen Sr Lt V. Govenko and Sgt A. Yatsyshin carried out an original idea as a result of lengthy searches: Considering the fact that fire was conducted in the practices at short distances, they installed small-caliber rifles on the tanks in place of the machineguns. There was a considerable saving in live cartridges and in addition the useful life of miniature targets was increased greatly. When machinegun fire was conducted against them they were quickly put out of commission.

There are many other innovations in the tankmen's weapons compound. Now the regiment's barracks training facility meets modern requirements and allows subunit commanders to conduct effective practices day or night, and not in the training center many kilometers away, but next to the barracks.

Other units also have opportunities for successful accomplishment of this task. It is important to make thrifty use of them.

GROUND FORCES

MOTORIZED RIFLE UNITS: IMPORTANCE OF FIRST RECOMMENDATION STRESSED

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 19 Jun 82 p 2

[Article by Maj S. Suanov, commander of Proskurov Motorized Rifle Regiment in Group of Soviet Forces in Germany: "The Reader Asks: The First Performance Appraisal"]

[Text] Performance appraisals drawn up by Sr Lt S. Tsibenko, commander of a cadet company at the Alma-Ata Higher Combined-Arms Command School imeni Mar SU I. S. Konev, on two lieutenants are before me. The appraisals are like sisters. The young officers' last names could be exchanged, and nothing would change. They are described with one and the same words. But how dissimilar the lieutenants are in real life! One of them really knows tactics and equipment well, is exacting toward himself and subordinates, and is anxious over his job. But his classmate lacks these qualities. In a half-year of service the young platoon commander has had two hearings at sessions of the battalion party bureau, and both times the conversation about the officer's performance of party and official duties was sharp and impartial. Life itself showed that the comrade still does not have those high moral-political and job qualities with which he was invested on receiving a performance appraisal.

Is this a solitary instance? Unfortunately not. Performance appraisals for many graduates are drawn up if not as carbon copies, then at least according to a single stereotype. There is hardly anyone who will doubt that a certain system is needed in preparing performance appraisals. Lines about an officer's tactical and technical training, his command skills, participation in social life and much more are mandatory in a performance appraisal. They concern the chief and most essential elements. But it is necessary to speak of the person being appraised so that his individual nature is apparent and so that his strong and weak points are revealed visibly and graphically. The modest size of the performance appraisal is no hindrance to this. There should be a feeling of responsibility in the person making it.

In a recent newspaper article my attention was drawn to excerpts from a performance appraisal of a company commander. "Disciplined to punctuality," stated the document. "Exacting toward subordinates and command personnel. Enjoys authority and popularity among command personnel and Red Army men. Knowledge of military affairs is firm and broad, as facilitated to a considerable extent by a good general development. . . . As a commander who

stands out in energy, strict attitude toward himself and his work, abilities, and practical knowledge of military affairs and the methodology of training and instruction, it is desirable to advance him out of order to the position of chief of the regimental school." How much simplicity, clarity and responsibility there is in these words! And as time showed, how much insight there was in them. That was the performance appraisal on N. F. Vatutin, commander of the 8th Company, 67th Kupyansk Rifle Regiment, a future military leader and army general.

It is apparently said correctly that in giving a subordinate a performance appraisal a commander also is writing an appraisal of himself. In studying appraisals, one mentally sees before him the person who drew them up--in one case a responsible officer, strict and accurate in his evaluations who tries to tell about a person as thoroughly and clearly as possible; and in another case a hasty officer who is eternally late, who compiles a performance appraisal in a hurry, without straining his mind, with the help of hackneyed phrases beyond which one will not see much no matter how one tries.

Such shortcomings show up especially in the first performance appraisals of officers. Curt, seemingly choppy phrases roam from appraisal to appraisal: "physically fit," "technically competent," and no clarifications. Just try to understand whether or not a lieutenant is capable of conducting physical training classes at a good level, whether he loves sports, and whether he can be used for directing a particular sports section. Can the young officer be entrusted with a technical circle? Can one expect his participation in invention or rationalization work?

There was a grievous episode in the life of our regiment. Komsomol committee secretary Sr Lt M. Kondratenko was assigned to the position of battalion political deputy. He was an officer who was able to work with the youth, and he was capable and had initiative. A candidate for the new secretary had to be recommended to the Komsomol report-election meeting. We discussed the matter a long while in the party organization and returned once again to the lieutenants' performance appraisals. In each one we came across the standard phrase: "Participated actively in social life." We recommended one of the young officers to be the Komsomol secretary and were wrong. The lieutenant, who took his failure keenly, soon had to be transferred to a command position, as he was not up to the duties of secretary. But had the evaluations in the performance appraisal been more comprehensive and concrete the mistake probably would not have been made.

Here's another example. Sr Lt A. Kurzenkov's development as an officer was not a simple one. The question arose whether or not the officer could be entrusted with staff work. There was not a word on this score in the graduation performance appraisal. We took a risk and the result was that Sr Lt Kurzenkov showed his best side in the position of battalion deputy chief of staff. A conclusion was written in his new performance appraisal: "Advisable to send to 'Vystrel' courses with subsequent appointment to position of chief of staff/deputy battalion commander."

I do not wish to rebuke the cadet company commander who drew up Kurzenkov's appraisal for the fact that he did not evaluate the young officer's readiness for staff work. I have not seen one graduation performance appraisal where something was said on this score. School practice itself often does not provide weighty grounds for a conclusion as to the inclination for staff work. Cadets very rarely are checked in the role of battalion chief of staff or deputy. But the fact is that these positions are manned with school graduates. In reinforcing the tie between training and practical work, I believe it necessary to arm the graduates of military educational institutions with skills in staff work and consequently evaluate the young officer's capabilities in this area.

A performance appraisal which objectively and comprehensively evaluates a school graduate's moral-political and job qualities is of great support in subsequent work with him. I recall how I familiarized myself with the performance appraisal on Lt A. Lyakhovskiy, a graduate of the Moscow Higher Combined-Arms Command School imeni RSFSR Supreme Soviet. The document was permeated with concern for the future young officer and his successful development. His merits were listed thoroughly. There was a very concrete statement as to where attention should be directed both for the graduate himself and for those under whom he would serve. During the first discussion the lieutenant himself named all gaps in his personal training which had been listed in the graduation performance appraisal. It is very good when a person knows where he has to apply himself. And it was clear to us where we had to "back up" yesterday's cadet and how to help him at first. The platoon commanded by Lt Lyakhovskiy was foremost in the battalion for two years and the company he now commands is the best in the regiment in all indicators.

I had occasion to command a cadet company for five years at the Kiev Higher Combined-Arms Command School imeni M. V. Frunze. I know from my own experience that drawing up performance appraisals on graduates is no easy matter. Before filling out the appraisal form one has to study his wards thoroughly, attend lectures and field classes, see the future officers at work, check his evaluations and conclusions in discussions with instructors, and consider the opinion of the party and Komsomol organizations about the person. But--and now I am judging this from the position of regimental commander--the work proves its value. The school performance appraisal, figuratively speaking, is a ticket into an officer's life. Success in development of the young commander, political officer and military engineer largely is contingent on the depth and objectivity of the performance appraisal.

6904

CSO: 1801/10

GROUND FORCES

USE OF MOVIE TRAINER DISCUSSED

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 20 Jun 82 p 2

[Article by Capt I. Lebid'ko, Group of Soviet Forces in Germany: "Letter to the Editors: Why the Film Trainer is Idle"]

[Text] A film training classroom has been set up in one of our regiments. Here trainees can sharpen their proficiency in a difficult situation approximating conditions of actual combat. According to the unanimous opinion of officers, warrant officers, NCO's and privates who have worked in this classroom if only once, the effectiveness of each class and practice is very high here. This also is confirmed by results of final problems. For example, in the battery commanded by Gds Sr Lt A. Yakushev specialists who worked regularly on the film trainer demonstrated rather high results in special training.

But the fact is that the personnel of a number of other subunits have held only one or two practices here. It is all a matter of organizational discrepancies. Although classroom activities have been planned and a schedule has been drawn up for use of the film trainer by subunits of all the division's units, the classroom doors open only for those whom R. Kharunov, staff officer of the regiment where the film trainer is installed, wishes to admit here. He is responsible for training of specialists in the battery commanded by Gds Sr Lt Yakushev. This subunit naturally is given preference.

There is another aspect to the problem as well. The film trainer is in a room which essentially was not heated in the winter training period. The adjacent classroom was being repaired and it was decided to turn off the heating system for the entire building. It is understandable that under those conditions there need be no talk about the effectiveness of using the film trainer. And when rain fell water began to trickle from the classroom ceiling...

Over two years ago the group newspaper SOVETSKAYA ARMIYA published a report from this unit under the title "Why Did the Film Trainer Screen Go Out?" Matters improved for some time after the newspaper's article, but the shortcomings were repeated in the winter training period this year.

The film trainer is the only one in the division. It would seem that artillery officers from division headquarters should have taken control of its effective use in their own hands, but they also limit themselves to references to the existing "schedule." And the unhappy statistics reveal that specialists of one unit were admitted to the film training classroom only once in the winter training period, but the subordinates of Capt A. Lipko from another unit not once.

I would not like to see the deficiencies repeated in the summer training period as well. The subunit commanders who asked that I send this letter to the editors of KRASNAYA ZVEZDA are hoping for a radical improvement in matters and that appropriate steps still will be taken.

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CSO: 1801/10

GROUND FORCES

SELF-DEFENSE TRAINING

Moscow KRSNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 9 Jul 82 p 1

[Article by Gds Lt Col A. Panasenko, Group of Soviet Forces in Germany: "Act Skillfully in Single Combat"]

[Text] The "enemy soldier" made a sharp lunge, trying to deliver a bayonet thrust, but Pvt M. Aksayan executed an accurate self-defense move, evaded the thrust, then disarmed the attacker by a lightninglike hold and throw. Jr Sgt E. Gaffarov won victory in the practice hand-to-hand combat just as confidently by performing a series of several effective moves. And the other personnel of the company commanded by Sr Lt G. Kozlov also function nimbly and confidently in hand-to-hand combat practice. Nearby the very same exercises are being performed by personnel of the company commanded by Capt V. Ovchinnikov and other subunits of the battalion commanded by Capt V. Narezhnyy.

It is understandable that in actual combat the chief weapon of tankmen is the fire of the main gun and machineguns, but a high degree of physical conditioning and firm skills of single combat actions are just as necessary to them as, for example, to motorized riflemen. I recall the winter training period. During a tactical exercise we officers of the staff and political department of the Zaporozh'ye Guards Tank Division were convinced of this once more. That exercise, which moreover took place under difficult weather conditions, lasted several days in a row. During it Capt Narezhnyy's subordinates made long marches and moved from the defense into the attack. It also happened where according to the inspector's narrative problem fighting vehicles were "disabled" and then their crews had to repair the tanks under "enemy" fire or work on their recovery, and even act as motorized riflemen. In performing this latter task the skills of hand-to-hand combat came in very handy for them.

The personnel of our division's units and subunits also mastered these skills successfully in the past. Suffice it to say that one of the division's subunits took second place in last year's hand-to-hand combat competitions in the Group of Forces. Gds Maj B. Bondaruk, deputy chairman of the sports committee and an expert and propagandist in this important work, not only managed to conduct demonstration classes in all units at a high methods level and create a good training facility, but also train non-T/O&E coaches in all maneuver and artillery battalions. Today they are the ones who organize

hand-to-hand combat practices in the subunits. The methods instructions drawn up by Officer Bondaruk allow each class to be highly effective and of high quality.

Take just the battalion mentioned earlier. Battalion chief of staff Capt A. Bol'shakov, a candidate for master of sport, directs practices in hand-to-hand combat. He is assisted by Lt A. Nekrasov, a first-category holder in officers' combined games. Three first-category officers in the company commanded by Sr Lt G. Kozlov became non-T/O&E coaches at the same time. They are platoon commanders senior lieutenants V. Tarasov and G. Yakovlev and Lt S. Shalimov. Capt V. Ovchinnikov, the commander of another company, also conducts practices. He is a candidate for master of sport. Eight of his subordinates are first category holders and each of them is capable of acting as a class instructor.

Now Gds Maj Bondaruk is drawing up recommendations on the problem of bringing every practice even closer to conditions of actual combat. For example, a special obstacle course is being set up in the division training center where there is to be training in several variants of actions by tankmen, motorized riflemen, artillerymen and other specialists. Classes on this course will allow practice of hand-to-hand combat techniques under conditions of terrain varying in profile and character.

The summer training period is the most intensive with respect to enriching each specialist with knowledge and practical combat skills. The tactical and special tactical exercises and problems and the firings which are taking place are eloquent proof that success is possible where the personnel also have comprehensive physical conditioning along with professional preparedness. Preparing oneself for coming out the winner from the most extreme combat situation, including hand-to-hand combat, means taking one more important step in improving the military collective's combat readiness.

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CSO: 1801/10

GROUND FORCES

FIELD COMMUNICATIONS DURING BATTLE DISCUSSED

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 11 Jul 82 p 2

[Letter to the editors by Maj G. Ponomarev: "Prompting for the 'Enemy'"]

[Text] I recently had occasion to attend a tactical exercise in the battalion commanded by Capt N. Buykevich. The difficult tactical situation and dynamics of combat actions also required the officers to have high staff culture along with other qualities. In particular, they had to follow strictly the conditions and rules for radio communications, be able to use the tactical control code signals chart rapidly and transmit the signals over radio competently. A different situation reigned at the battalion command-observation post. After receiving reconnaissance data, Capt Buykevich decided to update the mission by radio to Sr Lt V. Gordiyevskiy, commander of the right-flank company, but he could not call him up by radio in any way.

"'Vasilek', this is 'Sokol'. How do you hear me? Over," he repeated.

No answer.

"Third Company," said the battalion commander, letting it slip, "have you fallen asleep?"

Finally the voice of company commander Sr Lt Goriyevskiy penetrated the crackle of the airwaves.

Capt Buykevich dressed the officer down over the radio, not being too stingy with phrases, and then began to update the mission to the company. Communications procedures and discipline were violated in assigning missions by radio to other battalion subunits as well.

I didn't begin the letter with this episode by chance. It is no secret that I have had to hear similar things in exercises more than once. Sometimes subunit commanders and staff officers use the radio as a unique megaphone, showing little concern for following communications practice. In that same exercise, for example, Officer P. Pronskiy was issuing radio instructions to subordinates. He gave specific last names and positions and clarified subunit locations. It turned out, figuratively speaking, to be a verbal report to "enemy" headquarters.

We recorded this and other conversations on magnetic tape and when exercise results were being summarized we turned on the recording for those assembled. The effect from this was unexpected. It turned out that, flushed with the fight, many simply did not notice that they were crudely violating radio procedure.

Some officers unfortunately still frequently attempt to justify their professional ignorance and poor staff culture.

Let's return to the exercise in which Capt Buykevich's battalion operated. The attack began exactly at the designated time. Subunits successfully penetrated the "enemy" defense, but the motorized riflemen just were not able to develop the attack into its depth. The right-flank company suddenly was counterattacked by "enemy" tanks. The battalion lost the initiative and the attack bogged down. As it turned out, all this happened because the "enemy" had intercepted the radio conversations, carried on with numerous repetitions and queries, and even in the clear. The opposing side thus learned the attackers' disposition of forces and weapons as well as their concept. In essence Capt Buykevich and other officers predetermined the battalion's failure even before the attack began.

In my view, the reason for these shortcomings lies in the fact that during ordinary classes some commanders had not become accustomed to working with communications gear while observing communications discipline. This is why when exercise time comes many officers, especially young ones, lack skills of operating radios using callsigns and code charts, and so designations and names fly over the air in the clear...

This is one side of the coin, as they say. The other is that not everywhere is there yet a strict accounting demanded of those who systematically violate communications practice, do not know radio procedure and do not try to learn it.

In my opinion there has to be more persistent work to indoctrinate officers in staff culture, a component of which is the ability to pass radio traffic precisely and without superfluous phrases, and strictly observe communications practice and discipline. It is obvious that more attention must be given to this in command training system classes, special radio drills should be held regularly and Great Patriotic War experience should be studied. Unit signal officers, who by the way often don't do much to train officers in radio procedure or to observe communications discipline, can make a great contribution toward solving this problem.

...A little sign often could be seen on wartime communications equipment: "Attention--the enemy is listening!" This also is useful to remember today.

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CSO: 1801/10

GROUND FORCES

EDITORIAL KEYED TO GUARD DUTY

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 17 Jul 82 p 1

[Editorial: "Guard Duty"]

[Text] Sentries stand day and night at their posts by colors, ammunition dumps, weapon and equipment depots, airfields and other military and state facilities. Guard duty is an inalienable part of all the Armed Forces' work of ensuring security and reinforcing the Motherland's defenses. It requires personnel to follow strictly appropriate provisions of the regulations and to have high vigilance, unbending resolve and initiative.

With realization of the acuteness and complexity of the international situation, Army and Navy personnel are improving their schooling persistently, improving the combat readiness of units and ships, and reinforcing discipline and efficiency. True to heroic traditions, they are always on guard. A subject of special concern to military councils, commanders, political entities, staffs, and party and Komsomol organizations is a steady improvement in the personnel's vigilance and development in military personnel of a keen sense of responsibility for national security and defense of socialism's achievements.

An important role in this work is set aside for a further improvement in guard duty, performance of which is performance of a combat mission. This is fully understood, for example, in the Chertkovo Guards Tank Regiment imeni Mar Arm'd Trps M. Ye. Katukov (Group of Soviet Forces in Germany). The organization and performance of duties by the guard are a subject of daily concern for the regimental commander, chief of staff, subunit commanders and political officers, and the party and Komsomol organizations. Particular attention is devoted to the personnel's study of the requirements of the USSR Armed Forces Garrison and Guard Duty Regulations and monitoring their fulfillment. Classes with personnel assigned to the guard are conducted in a practical manner at locations specially organized for this purpose, with consideration of features of each facility's security. Privates and NCO's are taught to make decisions on their own in different situations and to function capably in securing and defending facilities at night, in bad weather and under other difficult conditions.

The experience of this and other units persuades us that training guards is one of the deciding factors in their successful accomplishment of a combat

mission. Meanwhile, as experience shows, there still are many instances where guard personnel do not know their duties firmly enough and have been poorly trained in practical actions at the post. Some commanders and staffs do not show proper concern to see that the organizational and methods level of practical classes with personnel going on guard meets present-day requirements. In places there is an underestimation of the role of political indoctrination work and individual work with people, aimed at developing high moral-combat qualities in them and a readiness to perform their duty to the end. The time needed for preparations for performing duty and for personnel rest is not allocated everywhere.

Guard duty is a special kind of duty. The procedure for organizing it is strictly defined by the regulations. The detailing and preparation of guards, rights and obligations of guard personnel, posting and relief of guards, their inspection, internal order in guardrooms and all other matters connected with performance of the duty are precisely controlled in this regulation. Commanders of military units and subunits from which guards are detailed bear responsibility for selection and preparation of personnel for performing the duty, for serviceable condition of weapons and live cartridges, and for prompt dispatch of guards for the mount. It always must be remembered that any deviation from regulation requirements in organization of guard duty, even one that is at first glance insignificant, inevitably leads to undesirable consequences.

Firm military discipline and strict obedience to commanders represent a very important condition for exemplary performance of guard duty. The strictest order is especially necessary on guard. Here each soldier is required to have exceptional precision in his actions and exact observance of instructions, rules and commanders' orders. All forms of indoctrinational work should be used to instil these qualities in the personnel more vigorously, to reveal to them more fully the state importance of guard duty, and to explain provisions of the law as to responsibility for violating its rules. Correct procedures are followed where there is a thorough critique of the performance of duty by each guard, where each private and NCO is graded, where persons who distinguish themselves are encouraged and where the results of guard duty performance are taken into account in summing up competition results.

The chiefs and military commandants of posts, who by virtue of their service obligation must arrange for security and defense of post facilities in strict conformity with regulation requirements, are called upon to play an active part in organizing and improving guard duty. It is important for them to analyze the status of military discipline and guard duty on the post regularly, take prompt steps to improve them and prevent incidents, and perform persistent work to improve vigilance and keep military and state secrets. Supervision over the preparation of post guards must be combined closely with concern that all conditions necessary for performance of duty according to regulations have been created in guardrooms and at the posts. More attention should be given to organizing guard duty during the movement of troops and military cargoes by various kinds of transportation.

A further improvement in guard duty is connected inseparably with an improvement in the quality of personnel combat and political training and in the effectiveness of socialist competition in the Army and Navy. High moral-combat qualities and the skills of performing a combat mission under the most difficult conditions should be developed in personnel more persistently in the course of daily training. The personnel's participation in competition for a worthy greeting to the 60th anniversary of the USSR's formation must be used more vigorously for these purposes.

The struggle for high quality of guard duty assumes a steady improvement in the effectiveness of party-political work and legal propaganda, and assurance that party and Komsomol members set the example. Particular attention here should be given to improving the vigilance of guard personnel and explaining the provisions of regulations and personal responsibility of every serviceman for their strict fulfillment. Party-political work and legal propaganda must be carried on with consideration of concrete tasks and features of the security and defense of various facilities. There is great importance in extensive propaganda of grand traditions and heroic exploits performed by Soviet military personnel in the performance of guard duty.

Provisions for precise organization and vigilant performance of guard duty represent a most important condition for reliable security and defense of military and state facilities and for raising the combat readiness of the Army and Navy.

6904

CSO: 1801/10

GROUND FORCES

GERMAN SOURCE ON PROBLEM IN NBC PROTECTION ON BMD-1

Frankfurt/Main SOLDAT UND TECHNIK in German No 9, Sep 82 p 498

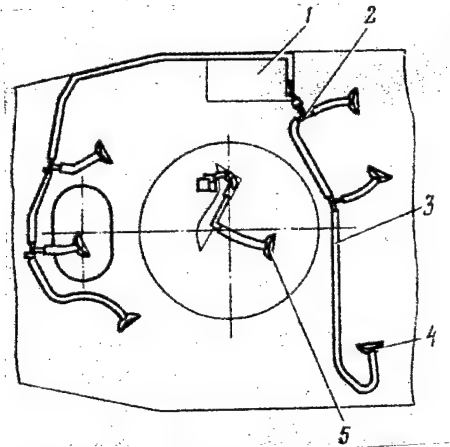
[Article by r/c: "Problems With Airborne Armored Personnel Carrier BMD? Firing Only Possible With Respirator Masks"]

[Text] A recent Soviet publication indicates that the airborne armored personnel carrier BMD has been newly equipped with an individual breathing system for its seven-man crew. This system replaces the earlier exhaust ventilators for the hull and tower which apparently were no longer adequate to evacuate detonation gases during firing under combat conditions.

The new air intake system is connected to the NBC filter apparatus of the airborne personnel carrier (Ill. 1). It comprises two air distributor conduits which are connected to breathing masks for the vehicle occupants by way of three-way elements (T-couplings) or terminal couplings. The air distributor conduits are expandable, flexible hoses of 36 mm diameter, probably of the same type as used in Soviet ABC protective masks. The breathing masks of the vehicle commander, the driver and the forward machinegunner are supplied with fresh air from the air conduit which leads to the forward end of the personnel carrier. The air conduit leading to the midsection of the vehicle serves to supply fresh air to the three airborne riflemen sheltered behind the turret (s.a. No 9 Dec 80, p 704). Operation of the air intake system is shown as follows: The intake air drawn in and purified by the ABC filter apparatus is divided into two streams. The main stream is conducted, as before, into the hull and the turret of the BMD. Approximately 10 percent of the intake air is fed by way of the air distribution conduits directly to the crew's breathing masks. The air intake system is usually activated upon the order of the vehicle commander immediately before opening fire by switching on the filter mechanism. Only then can the vehicle occupants put on their breathing masks.

The gunner seated on the turret revolving stage is not connected to the air conduit system. Outside air is carried to him through the ventilator of the turret entry opening. Since no NBC air filtering takes place at this point, the breathing mask is provided with the filter canister of a normal NBC protective mask.

The Soviet publication claims that with the provision of its air intake system, the BMD has been equipped with its "ultimate refinement." The question, however, remains open whether what is meant is the slightly modified version of the BMD-1 which was observed at the Moscow October parade in 1981, or the BMD M 1981, about which relatively little is known so far, on which the 73 mm low pressure cannon was said to be replaced by a 30(?) mm machine cannon (s. No 4, 1982 p 215). What is certain, however, is that the stresses within the cramped quarters of the crew compartment of the BMD as a result of the nondissipated detonation gases of its various weaponry must have exceeded the tolerance capacities of its occupants and that the introduction of the air intake system had become essential. The cause of this could be both a new type of ammunition for the 73 mm cannon as well as the substantially higher rate of fire of a machine cannon.



III. 2: Schematic drawing of the air intake system (original Soviet drawing)

- (1) NBC filter mechanism
- (2) Three-way couplings (T-couplings)
- (3) Air distribution conduits
- (4) Breathing masks
- (5) Turret gunner's breathing mask

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AIR DEFENSE FORCES

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AIR DEFENSE FORCES

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[Passages rendered in all capital letters printed in boldface in source]

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NAVAL FORCES

LAG IN ARTILLERY FIRE DURING AMPHIBIOUS LANDING DISCUSSED

Moscow AGITATOR ARMII I FLOTA in Russian No 16, Aug 82 (signed to press 11 Aug 82)
pp 7-9

[Article by Sr Lt M. Lukanin, Twice Red Banner Baltic Fleet: "Elevating the Personality"]

[Text] Judging from the embittered artillery duel, the battle for the beachhead on the strongly fortified seacoast occupied by the enemy had reached the climax. Under the cover of air and ships and gunfire support, a large landing ship rushed toward the water's edge.

"Unlash landing equipment and prepare for landing!"

The spacious tweendeck was deafened by the motors of the armored personnel carriers which had begun to operate. The ship's guns also went about their business-- shells accurately neutralized "enemy" weapons emplacements.

The gates opened. A wave covered the broad, steel tongue of the ramp. It was immediately trampled down by a mighty avalanche of combat vehicles.

The landing of the amphibious force was accomplished at a precise rate and in the established time. And here, the decisive role was played by the crew of the ship which operated with the high combat spirit with which military collectives which are united by strong friendship are distinguished.

Later, in summing up the results of the combat work by the crew the commander of the ship gave high praise to the gunners. Operating decisively and with initiative and conducting aimed fire at shore targets, they did much to ensure the successful landing of the amphibious force.

It was pleasant to hear the words of praise for the battery commander, Lieutenant Yu. Il'yushenko, leader of gunners Warrant Officer [michman] N. Kamyshanskiy, and other gunnery officers. And you see, not so long ago the gunnery department lagged in socialist competition. One of the seamen was imprecise in servicing his items of responsibility, did not study the materiel properly and, as happened, deviated from the requirements of the regulations. All this led to where one day there was a delay in the accomplishment of gunfire. Clearly, the grade also proved to be low.

On that same day, a cartoon appeared in the wall newspaper. Everyone recognized Seaman V. Kuchko in the good young man who flourished a steel club at a primer. Well, here the members of the editorial board did not abandon the truth since Kuchko also was guilty of delaying the firing. The cartoon was accompanied by satirical verses. Of course, they were not perfect but, in return, as they say, they hit the nail on the head.

This example was instructive for the crew about which we are speaking. With the very first trouble in socialist competition, the activists of the wall press and the agitators strive to render as much aid as possible to the officers and party and Komsomol organizations of the crew in learning the reasons for one or another omission and in determining measures for their elimination. They appeal first of all to the thoughts and feelings of people, to their minds and hearts. Agitator Senior Seaman L. Petrenko, for example, conducted many talks with the gunners. They were nonedificatory, comradely talks and heart-to-heart conversations.

Later, on the initiative of the communists on the ship a Lenin lesson on military duty was conducted. And here, the talk concerned love for weapons which the people entrusted to their armed defenders and the necessity to master them skillfully. Captain 3d Rank (Retired) Ivan Mikhaylovich Kozlov, who commanded a minesweeper in the war years, was invited for a evening. Recalling his combat comrades, the veteran stressed that they all mastered equipment and weapons skillfully.

"And here is one more thing that I would like to call to your attention," said Ivan Mikhaylovich. "When I am asked what quality a navy man must possess first of all I, proceeding from my own service experience, answer as follows: first of all, one must be painstaking. This feature of the character overflowed into the natural standard of behavior of the frontline heroes, which helped them to attain victory."

Only a painstaking, disciplined person who is anxious for the honor of his ship can fully master the weapons and combat equipment which have been entrusted to him. The participants in the Lenin lesson came to such a conclusion. The subject of instilling in each seaman inner self-control and a smart appearance began to resound with new force in operational news sheets, the ship wall newspapers, and the presentations of the agitators.

The activists began to turn more often to the results of the competition whose role in the matter of generating in the men intolerance toward shortcomings in training as well as in conduct increased incomparably. For example, gunner crew leader Warrant Officer N. Kamyshanskiy began to assign specific educational goals for each drill. The wall newspaper immediately told about this favorable experience.

However, not everyone in the crew occupies an active life's position. At one time, the activists had to do much work with Petty Officer 2d Class A. Podoprigolov. The fact is that at times he violated discipline and his social obligations became a burden. To put it mildly, seeing the cool attitude of the junior commander toward service, his subordinates also stopped being distinguished by zeal in the study of their specialty. The petty officer's behavior became a subject for serious discussion at a session of the Komsomol bureau. He was given to understand that the Komsomol organization will not condone people who abandon our moral standards. Podoprigolov then understood much. And, after all, he was able to master himself exactly in what today generally permits him to perform his duties successfully.

The ship's Komsomol activists are doing much to maintain in the crew the spirit to do the best in everything. On their initiative, in the crew contests are conducted for the best battle station and for the title of best specialist. The heat of the competition for the right to be called successor to the best specialist of the war years is always high, too. All this causes enthusiasm and an emotional uplift in the seamen. A good incentive in service appears in them and they grow morally.

The constant concern for elevating the personality in the course of socialist competition is providing good fruit. And really, let us say, doesn't the following incident testify to the healthy moral atmosphere in the collective? One day, one of the mechanisms broke down. The electricians immediately came to the assistance of the mechanics. The joint harmonious work permitted bringing the work which had been begun to a conclusion twice as rapidly.

Collectivism, naval friendship, and military comradeship--these are far from abstract concepts for the seamen of the engineer department. Seaman K. Nauryzbayev understood this immediately, as soon as he arrived in this military collective. It so happened that he studied one specialty in the training subunit but had to work in another on the ship. Petty Officer 2d Class I. Oleksyuk spent much personal time to teach Nauryzbayev everything that he can do himself. In return, how pleased he was with the young seaman's first successes.

In speaking about publicity for competition, V. I. Lenin advised transforming dry, dead, bureaucratic reports into living examples--repulsive as well as attractive. The Komsomol activists of the large landing ship are striving constantly to put this wise Lenin behest into practice. Everyone in the crew knows about the leaders of the socialist competition in honor of the 60th anniversary of the formation of the USSR. Nor are those who must be leaned upon a little in the improvement of combat skill ignored. They are held strictly accountable in case of necessity, but neither are they refused comradely assistance and friendly support.

Representatives of almost all our republics are serving in this crew. United in one harmonious combat family, they are not sparing strength or energy to raise the combat readiness of their ship. And they are successful in this. In accordance with the results of the winter training period the large landing ship became the leader in the unit. The number of experts here increased by 14 percent and the number of first- and second-class specialists increased by 18 percent. The crew is not reducing the rates in the competition even today, during summer combat training. The lofty moral qualities of the naval seamen are manifested in their striving to do everything so as to greet the glorious anniversary of our multinational motherland in a worthy manner.

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